

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 341

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2008

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**19  
DAYS TO GO  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

## OPINION METER

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DAYS** without a  
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budget for  
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## INSIDE



### Uzi Death

Three men were indicted in the death of an 8-year-old who accidentally shot himself in the head with an Uzi.

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### Pacman Mania

He loves fancy cars but to his tens of millions of fans, Manny Pacquiao is a working class hero.

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### New Book

The latest magical tome by J.K. Rowling has started to fly off bookstore shelves.

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Missing rental car is found gutted at Suicide Cliff. **PAGE 3**

## Asiana losing money on Saipan route

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**he rapid and extreme depreciation of the Korean won continues to impact Kumho Asiana's future in the CNMI.

Through October the company lost \$5 million on Asiana's Saipan-South Korea flight route due to fewer Korean visitors, said Kwang Joong Kim, general manager for

Asiana Airlines' Saipan sales office.

Last month, the load factor was approximately 55 percent, compared to nearly 85 percent during the same pe-

See **ASIANA** on Page 4

## Power sales plunged 39 percent since '06

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has lost more than 170 million kWh worth of electricity sales in the past two years, according to a report prepared for the Public Utilities Commission.

Sales have decreased from 433 million



Muña

kilowatt hours in fiscal year 2006 to 306 million kWhs in fiscal year 2007, according to the report prepared by the Georgetown Consulting Group for PUC. Although results for fiscal year 2008 were not available, the Georgetown Consultants were able to use month-to-month figures to determine

See **POWER** on Page 4

*I'm losing a lot on this route. I'm scared.*

—Kwang Joong Kim, general manager for Asiana Airlines' Saipan sales office

## Fitial signs updated zoning law

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law yesterday the latest version of the Saipan Zoning Law, refining and updating the zoning law that went into effect in February 2008.

"The changes will improve our ability to attract new businesses and to reuse our existing buildings," said Fitial.

Among the changes are new requirements that will affect all businesses that produce or display banner signs and rules relating to the location of adult businesses.

The law went into effect immediately and all new development proposals will

be reviewed and approved under the new law.

### Key features

The 2008 Law has a number of key features. It:

- Requires adult businesses to be separated from each other by 500 feet in an adult business overlay zone

- Provides special standards for reusing large commercial and industrial buildings

- Provides a deadline for removal of nonconforming banners signs

See **FITIAL** on Page 4



Fitial



### 'TOUGHIES BUT SOFTIES'

Saipan's Taga Riders show their Christmas presents during a photo break at yesterday's gift-giving party with the *man'amko*. At left is Office on Aging program coordinator Walter Manglona while next to him is Taga Riders president Bill Camacho. See story on Page 2.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



# Local

## Senate OKs bill resetting NMI election schedule

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Senate has passed a constitutional amendment to synchronize the Commonwealth's regular elections with federal elections.

The Senate legislative initiative calls for local elections to be held in even-numbered years,

instead of odd-numbered years. It is now bound to the House of Representatives, where it must obtain a three-fourths majority vote. If approved by the House, the proposed constitutional change will be put on the ballot in 2009, at the earliest, for ratification.

Under the Senate proposal,

the CNMI's regular general election will be held Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. If the initiative is ratified in 2009, the election will be held in 2012 and every two years after that.

Those officials elected in 2009 who serve two-year terms, such as House members, municipal

council members, and Board of Education members, will serve three years. The governor and lieutenant governor, senators, and mayors elected in 2009 will serve five-year terms, instead of four-year terms.

Sponsored by Sen. Jude Hofschneider, the proposal follows the enactment of a federal

law granting the Northern Marianas a non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress. Current law says the CNMI government has to conduct a separate election for the delegate office in even-numbered years, in addition to holding regular general election in odd-numbered years, as provided in the Commonwealth Constitution.

The initiative states that the government, by not holding an election every year, could save money and use it for other programs and services.

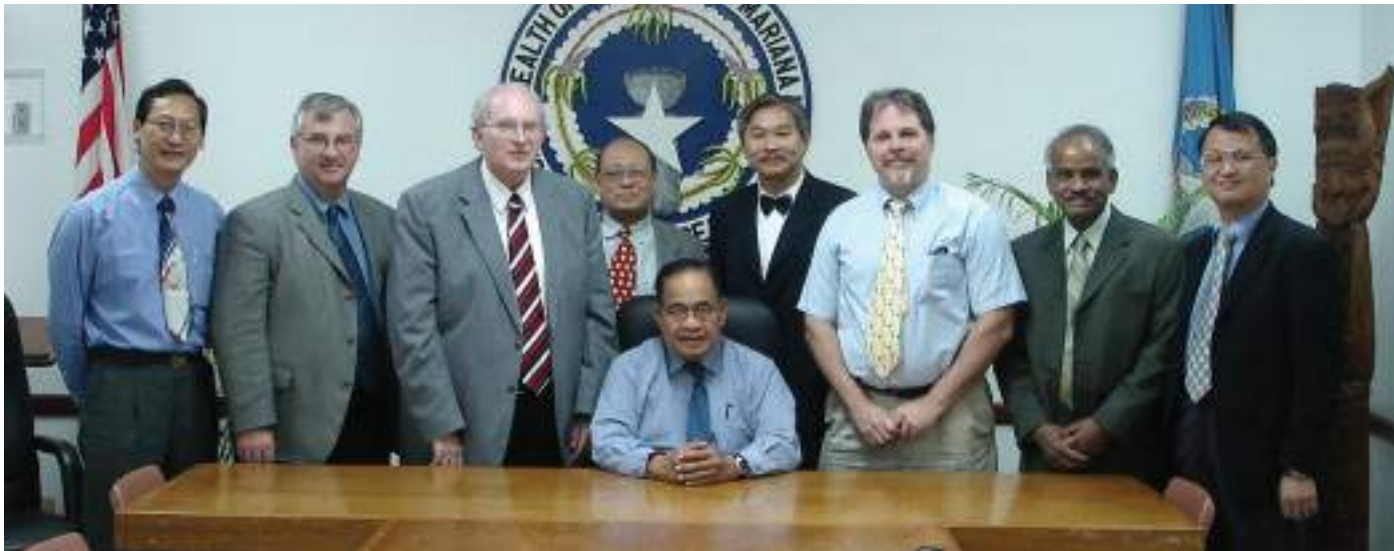
Another version of the proposal is pending in the House of Representatives. The House version, authored by Rep. Diego

Benavente, would postpone the 2011 CNMI election for 2012 to coincide with the national election, and then hold it every two years afterwards.

The House initiative seeks shorter terms for some officials to be elected next year, and longer terms for others. Under the initiative, the next governor and lieutenant governor, as well as the senators and mayors elected in 2009, will serve three-year terms, instead of four-year terms. Meanwhile, the terms of the representatives, municipal council members, and Board of Education members would be extended from two years to three years.

The terms for the respective offices will revert back to their regular length after the 2012 election.

## Accrediting team completes EUCON site visit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno Fitial poses with EUCON International School officials and members of the TRACS accrediting team. Five team members from Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools were on island this week to evaluate the school.

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A visiting accrediting team is pleased with the progress EUCON International School has achieved in the last few years, the team liaison said yesterday.

Jeff McCann, staff representative for Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, said the five accrediting team members looked at 15 areas of the college during their five-day visit. There were seven key areas evaluated, such as governance, finances and academic programs.

Although the final decision will not be announced until April, McCann said he could say the team was impressed with the progress the school made since it was given pre-accreditation status in November 2005.

College officials were well prepared and provided the necessary documents for evaluation, he added.

The TRACS team presented EUCON officials with recommendations to improve on before the April decision, said Christian Wei, president of EUCON. An example of an improvement could be increas-

ing the number of textbooks for a major.

The recommendations and suggestions allow the school to know where they need to improve, Wei said.

McCann said accreditation is important for several reasons: It is used as a prerequisite for Pell Grants and student loans; assists with the transfer of credits; assists with pursuing graduate work; gives the school recognition; and provides accountability.

McCann is the vice president of Piedmont Baptist Bible College in Winston-Salem, NC. The other members of the team

included: David Owen, President of Pacific Islands Bible College in Guam; Joseph Paturi, President of Temple Baptist Bible College in Cincinnati, OH; William Smallman, Vice President of Baptist Mid-Missions in Cleveland, OH; and Michael Windsor, Professor of Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Virginia Beach, VA.

TRACS is approved by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized institutional accrediting agency and also recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

## Taga Riders: 14 years of giving to the *man'amko*

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan's Taga Riders not only arrived in stylish attires and expensive motorcycles at the Office On Aging but also brought gifts for the *man'amko* yesterday.

The group's president, Bill Camacho, said they have been doing this for the last 15 years as their way of honoring the senior citizens of Saipan.

"This is a way of celebrating our 14<sup>th</sup> year. It is our commitment to pay tribute and respect to them," Camacho said.

He said the gifts were solicited from the business sector. These included assorted items like fruits, t-shirts, coffee cups and other grocery items.

The Taga Riders, who have been doing charity work for the past 13 years, also donated \$500 to the senior citizens.

"It's Christmas time and we are very happy to receive these presents. I hope that the Taga Riders will enjoy a bountiful Christmas holiday," Man'amko Advisory Council president Frank Reyes said.

The riders will be visiting the Commonwealth Health Center Pediatric Ward today for similar gift giving and to host fun activities for the children.

The other officers of the Taga Riders are Edward Flores (vice president), Joey Ejercito (secretary), Jess Santos (treasurer), and June Somorane (road captain).

The groups' founder is George Camacho.

The members include Ben Sablan, Stanley Santos, Marie Sapong, Ed Tudor, Susan Tudor, Cel Damian, Dave Meyers, Manny Cabrera, Tony Yen, Ruben Corpuz, Vince Lizama, Peter Togawa, and Jess Quiblat.

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# Rental car is found gutted at Suicide Cliff

By **FERDIE DELA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A rented car was found abandoned at Suicide Cliff in Marpi Wednesday morning and some

of its parts were missing, police said yesterday.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Police Officer 2 Jason Tarkong said the car was a blue 2008 Toyota Camry

four-door sedan with license plate ACC-470.

Tarkong said missing from the vehicle were both tail lights, radiator, and the driver and passenger air bags.

Tarkong said the detectives investigating the case are temporarily withholding the name of the person who rented the car from Lei Rent-A-Car.

Police arrived at Suicide

Cliff Monday at 7:28am after they received a call about a vandalized car.

Police officers saw no one in the area and discovered some parts of the car were missing.

Police Officer David Rabauli-man investigated the matter and found out that the car belongs to Lei Rent-A-Car located on Beach Road in San Jose.

The owner told police that the

car was rented to a Chinese man last Monday, Dec. 1.

Officers were able to obtain a contact number of the customer and called that number.

The person who answered the phone told police that the customer who rented the vehicle had already left for China.

"This case is currently under investigation," Tarkong said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Members of the Heiwa O Inoru Chisan Kyokai pose with students and teachers of the Tinian Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Japanese group donates \$1,000 to TES

A Japanese group from the Heiwa O Inoru Chisan Kyokai, traveling from all around Japan, visited Tinian Elementary School on Nov. 26, 2008, the day before Thanksgiving, and met with the staff and students in the school cafeteria.

The group's president, Riwa Satou addressed the students and staff. Present during the presentation was George Manglona, teacher aide at TES, who translated for the group.

According to Riwa Satou, the group has visited Saipan annually, but this was the first time that they

had visited Tinian. The group talked about the war and how innocent people died because of it. They also discussed with students about how everyone should work together toward peace on Earth.

Prior to the group's visit to Tinian, TES principal Maria T. Rios, received a telephone call informing her that a group of Japanese would be visiting TES and would be donating \$1,000 for instructional materials. In order to accommodate the needs of all students, Rios decided that the money would be used to purchase sports equipment, as

the school has very little.

With the funding limitations from the local government, this was truly a blessing for Tinian Elementary School. The students now have the equipment they need for Physical Education. The equipment chosen includes badminton, croquet, baseball bats and balls, hula hoops, volleyballs, soccer balls, ping-pong sets, Frisbees and marker cones for the athletic field.

Student representatives from each grade level were chosen to receive the gifts on behalf of their class. The staff, students

and parents of Tinian Elementary School expressed gratitude to the "Heiwa O Inoru Chisan Kyokai" group and their members, which included Riwa-Satoi, Toshikazu Sato, Koshin Korei, Mayuki Ueno, Shinya Omori, Shunin Baba, Ryuken Taniguchi, Masatoshi Kondo, Shunin Kawakami, Shobotu Tsutsui, Takahiro Kaminaka, Takonobu Kurata, Shoyoh Shibuya, Masahiro Nishina, Yasutaka Inoue, Sadanori Iso, Toshihide Nishikawa, Shomasa Okabe, Takatomo Abe, Masakazu Tanaka, Ryosuke Shimizu, Tokiko Tanaka, Emiko Tanaka, Masahiro Hosada, and Naoya Miyamura. *(PR)*

## Open enrollment set for govt's health insurance

The NMI Retirement Fund has announced an open enrollment period for employees and retirees wishing to participate in the government's group health insurance program.

The Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund and Aetna Global Benefits will hold the open enrollment through this month.

Government employees and retirees may apply for enrollment for themselves and their dependents, or change their benefit and enrollment options in the health insurance program during December, Fund administrator Mark Aguon said.

"Active employees and retirees who are already enrolled and do not wish to change benefit and enrollment options are not required to take any action," Aguon added.

New enrollments or changes made during the "open season" will become effective on Jan. 1, 2009.

Aguon also said an orientation program will be held from 8am to 4:30pm at the Multi Purpose Center in Susupe on

Tuesday, Dec. 9, and Wednesday, Dec. 10. A representative from Aetna will be available on these days to answer questions about the government's health insurance program.

Aetna used to serve as a third-party administrator of the group health insurance program. On Nov. 1, 2007, the program was privatized and awarded to Aetna, through the competitive bidding process.

On Nov. 1, 2008, Aetna implemented a 12.9-percent increase in health insurance premiums.

Aguon has said the increase is expected to cost the government and the employees an additional \$1.5 million in health care premiums. Last year, health care premiums amounted to approximately \$12 million.

He has said the increase will have varying impacts on government agencies. Some agencies pay a higher percentage of the premiums than others. The government share in health care premiums ranges from 30 percent to 50 percent. *(Agnes E. Donato)*



Aguon

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# 12 CPA police cadets undergo training

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Twelve Commonwealth Ports Authority police cadets completed yesterday their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final day of field training on the emergency vehicle operators'

course next to the Saipan airport.

Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas made the cadets apply on the track what was taught them in the classroom about driving an emergency vehicle safely.

Macaranas, a certified EVOC instruc-

tor in California, told *Saipan Tribune* that the cadets learned in the classroom the legal nuances of car pursuit.

He said the cadets were also taught the Department of Public Safety's rules and regulations regarding car pursuit and how to drive

the vehicles safely.

Macaranas said this course gave cadets tips on what they should do if they are in pursuit of a suspect while patrolling the streets.

"They are out here on track so that they would have a first hand [experi-

ence] of how it feels like to drive a police vehicle while doing an emergency patrol, emergency response and pursuit," he said.

At the track, the cadets went through different kinds of maneuvering exercises.

Macaranas said he trained the cadets how to maneuver the vehicle as well as the things to watch out for while on the street like bicyclists, motorcycles, and motorists.

"It is a 40-hour course. It is a must for every emergency vehicle responder," Macaranas said.

He said the cadets must be EVOC-certified because of the potential liability against the government.

When a crash happens to an emergency vehicle, he said, liability will come, especially when there is loss of property or injuries involving citizens.

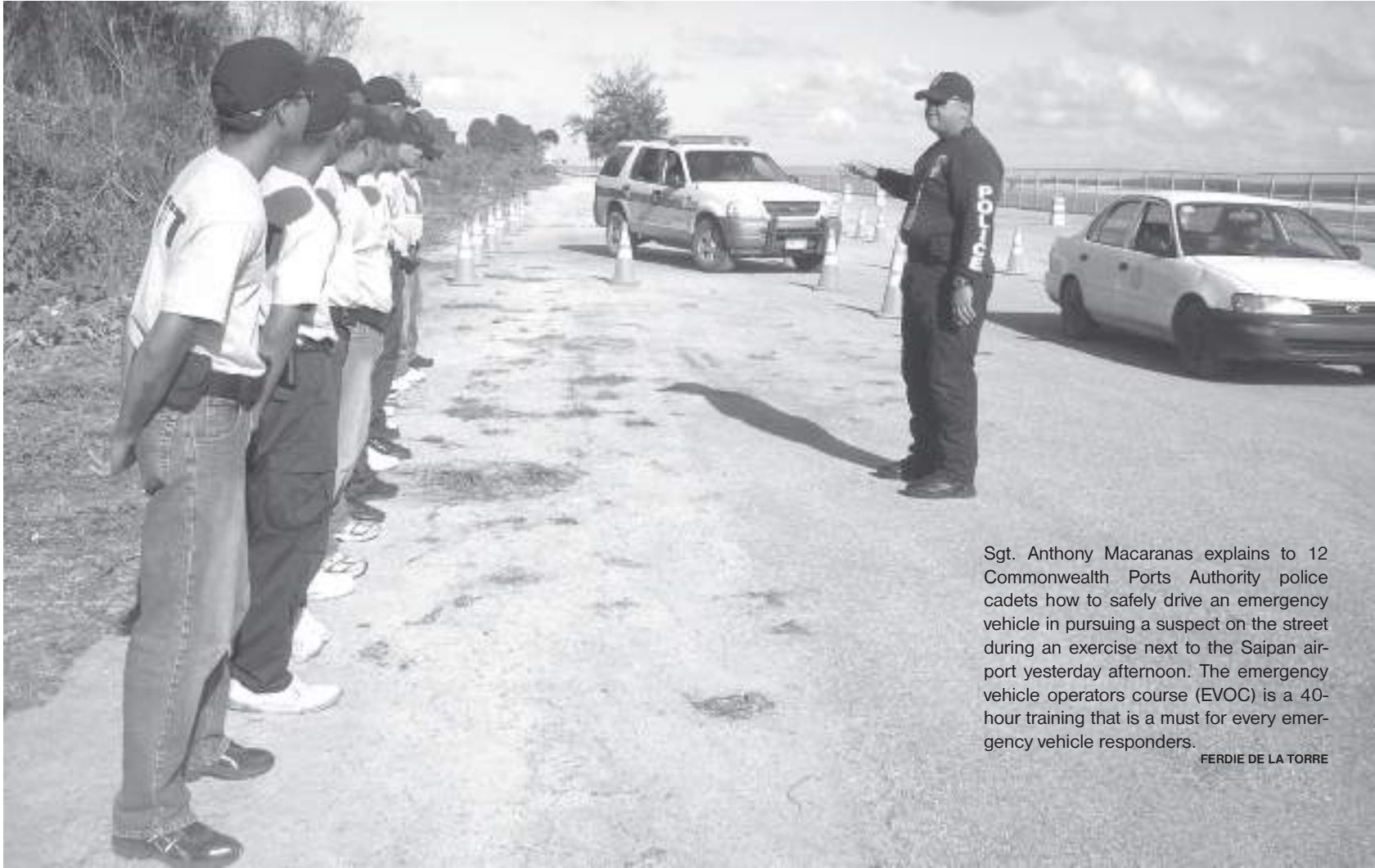
"And, of course, the department itself will be losing because of the vehicle damage and the lives of the officer. But, again, the highest thing that we're looking at is safety of others as well as the officers," he stressed.

Macaranas said the cadets were pretty much up to the standards that he is teaching.

"Of course, there's little things that we need to address. Right now, they don't have vehicles, but as soon as their vehicle is online, they will start patrolling the streets," he said.

The CPA police cadets are expected to graduate next month.

Macaranas has been at the airport for almost three weeks now doing the EVOC training. He first trained the fire cadets, followed by police cadets.



Sgt. Anthony Macaranas explains to 12 Commonwealth Ports Authority police cadets how to safely drive an emergency vehicle in pursuing a suspect on the street during an exercise next to the Saipan airport yesterday afternoon. The emergency vehicle operators course (EVOC) is a 40-hour training that is a must for every emergency vehicle responders.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## POWER

From Page 1

that the total sales for September 2007 to August 2008 were 263 million.

The numbers show CUC's sales have shown "a[n] enormous decline of 39.3 percent" for the two-year period,

according to the report.

"It is obvious that CUC is losing sales on a virtually continuous month-to-month basis," the report states.

According to the report, losses of industrial customers—such as the garment factories—have had a direct effect, which in turn has affected those employees using residential electricity.

Reduced business activity also causes the decrease in sales.

In August 2008 CUC sold 18 million kWhs—10 million less compared to the same period in 2006.

Also, the report notes that the rolling brownouts and islandwide blackouts affected sales, specifically business sales.

"As a consequence and in response

to [outages], many businesses have installed their own generation to ensure they have a ready and reliable power supply," the report states. "As those entities supply their own power requirements, they of course have reduced need or no need at all, for electrical energy produced by CUC even as CUC's power production units come back on

line. This loss of load can be termed unserved load, but in any case results in attrition of saleable kilowatt-hours."

The report is meant to help the PUC review and set utility rates before the Dec. 31, 2008, deadline set by law. If the PUC fails to meet this deadline, CUC will be forced to reduce power rates down to 17 cents per kWh.

## FITIAL

From Page 1

■ Prohibits banner signs with advertising except when they are related to an event

■ Prohibits signs that project above the level of the roof

■ Increases the number of lots that may be subdivided in a "minor" subdivision

■ Allows up to six children in a home day care business

■ Allows temporary uses to be permitted for up to a year rather than just six months

■ Reduces the lot area and setback requirements in some zones

■ Provides more flexibility in permit-

ting roadside merchandise stands

■ Provides new standards for fences and retaining walls

■ Establishes a parking improvement fund for Garapan

■ Exempts political campaign signs from permits if they are more than 50 feet from an intersection and no more than 6 ft high

■ Provides a simpler process for making lot line adjustments.

Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei, acting chairwoman of the Zoning Board, said: "The board has been working on this update for many months and we are grateful for the Governor's leadership and support as well as the support and assistance we received from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. We recognize the

need to keep the law current and respond to new opportunities. We have been very grateful to the Saipan business community and the public for the tremendous efforts they have made to comply with the zoning law."

### Banner requirements

The new banner requirements prohibit most banner signs that advertise a brand-name product, contain a brand name, symbol or logo, or contain a product price.

"The intent of the banner sign restriction is to make Saipan more attractive for tourists and to our residents," said Zoning administrator Steve Tilley.

Banner signs will still be allowed that don't contain product advertising and banner signs for special events

may contain up to 40 percent advertising space. However, retail banner signs advertising a product will not be allowed.

All nonconforming banner signs must be taken down by Jan. 31, 2009. The deadline for removing nonconforming banner signs has already passed, and the Zoning Office has provided a grace period for sign owners to remove their signs.

Beginning Feb. 1, 2009, the Zoning Office will issue notices of violation for nonconforming banner signs. Violations of the SZL can carry criminal and civil penalties including fines up to \$1,000 per day.

According to the new rule, a banner sign is "a sign with or without characters, letters, illustrations, or

ornamentations applied to cloth, paper, flexible plastic, or fabric of any kind with only such material for backing." A nonconforming banner sign is one that is already installed but would not be allowed under the Saipan Zoning Law.

A banner sign will be allowed to advertise products and prices if the sign is a window sign or event sign, such as for government functions or charity fundraisers. This category does not include retail sale events.

The new zoning law can be viewed on the publications page of the zoning website at [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp). Anyone with questions can also call or visit the Zoning Office at 234-9661, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. (**Zoning Board**)

## ASIANA

From Page 1

riod last year.

"I'm losing a lot on this route. I'm scared," Kim said.

Asiana currently has 18 flights from Korea and will add three more from Osaka, Japan, by the end of the month. Several of Asiana's flights from Korea were added after its parent company,

Kumho Asiana, purchased Laolao Bay Golf Resort in February 2007. The completion date of the approximately \$68 million project has been pushed back to the end of 2009 due to the downturn in the Korean economy.

When the company invested in Laolao, part of the commitment to the CNMI was to increase daytime flights, Kim said.

Asked if Asiana will reduce the number of flights, Kim said, "Because of

Laolao investment, we're going to do our best....so we want to continue, but we are not sure because of [the] too difficult situation right now."

He said he hopes the exchange rate improves because that is the key factor.

"[It's] very serious, serious impact to the Korean tourist," he added.

In August, the exchange rate was approximately 1,000 won to \$1 dollar. As of yesterday, the rate is 1,485.

Kim still believes the CNMI is an

ideal place for Koreans looking for a tropical location with an American culture. The CNMI tourism has a bright future, he said.

"That's why we invested here. We hope this should be successful," he said.

In October, when Asian added three additional flights to and from Incheon, South Korea, the company said it was anticipating an 80-percent load factor, allowing for as many as 43,000 additional visitors each year to the CNMI.

In November 2007, the Marianas Visitors Authority reported that the CNMI stood to gain \$20 million in direct tax revenues from Asiana Airlines in 2008, based on the assumption that the airline could fill at least 80 percent of its seats. In addition, MVA reported, the operations also could bring \$59 million in on-island expenditure to the CNMI, \$23 million in hotel revenue and \$2.3 million in hotel occupancy taxes.



# Local birders urged to take part in annual bird count

Saipan will once again take part in the Audubon Society's long running winter tradition—the Christmas Bird Count—during which volunteers will count the number of birds they will see throughout the day.

The CNMI has been participating in this worldwide effort for more than 11 years already.

This year, the Christmas Bird Count on Saipan will be held on Dec. 17, followed by one on Tinian on Dec. 28, 2008, and on Rota on Jan. 3, 2009.

Each year from approximately mid-December through the first week in January, birders and volunteers across the western hemisphere participate in various day-long counts throughout

the Americas, the West Indies, and the Pacific Islands.

In 2007, 59,918 participants took part in 2,113 individual counts. These observers reported a total of 57,704,250 birds from 2,267 species—nearly a quarter of the total of the world's known bird species.

The volunteer generated data that are a result of these counts have become an important part of the U.S. government's Natural History Monitoring Database. Thus, the CBC is a great opportunity for bird enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels to make a significant and useful contribution to science.

The CBC began in 1900 when 27 birders in 25 sepa-

rate locations in North America posed an alternative to the "Side Hunt," a Christmas day tradition in which participants chose sides and shot as many birds and mammals as possible throughout the day. Instead, this small group (led by scientist Frank Chapman) counted and recorded all birds detected and founded what is now considered the world's most significant citizen based conservation effort.

Come take part in the fun of this daylong event. Just meet with the group on Dec. 17 at the American Memorial Park parking lot at 6am with water, snacks or food, paper, pencils or pens, and binoculars and field guide if you have them (it's OK if you

don't own binoculars; DFW may have a few field guides on hand for use). As you'll take part in both roadside and walking surveys, come appropriately attired. A participation fee of \$5 will be required, which covers the cost of data compilation and of the annual Christmas Bird Count publication that all participants will receive.

Paul Radley of CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife will be leading and organizing the count. If you have any questions or are interested in taking part in the counts on Tinian (Dec. 28, 2008) or Rota (Jan. 3, 2009), call or e-mail Radley at 664-6011 or paulradleycnmidfw@gmail.com. (PR)

## Suspected 'ice' supplier falls after 3 buy-bust operations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Police and members of the Local Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested on Wednesday a suspected supplier of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan after three buy bust operations.

Cun Fu Zhang, 36, Chinese, was apprehended for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Zhang, alias Brother, was taken before Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman Thursday afternoon, but the judge re-scheduled the bail hearing for yesterday morning due to the lack of a Chinese interpreter.

At yesterday's hearing, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered that the bail be kept at \$30,000 as the court had earlier imposed for Zhang's temporary liberty.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 11 and the arraignment for Dec. 15.

Detective Norman S. Rasiang stated in his report that last Nov. 28, he and other detectives at the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division and members of the Local Drug Enforcement Task Force conducted a briefing for the buy-bust operation for Zhang, a suspected "ice" trafficker in San Antonio.

Using a "confidential source" the authorities allegedly managed to purchase 0.7 grams of "ice" worth \$300 from Zhang in San Antonio.

Rasiang said that during their second buy-bust operation last Tuesday in San Antonio, the same "confidential source" was able to purchase another 0.7 grams of "ice" worth \$200.

During a third sting operation last Wednesday, Rasiang said the same "confidential source" purchased 0.7 grams of "ice" worth \$200 from Zhang at the parking lot of Afetnas Square Building in San Antonio.

At this juncture, members of the surveillance team moved in and arrested the defendant.

## 'Labor does excellent job in detecting sponsorships'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has been doing an excellent job in detecting sponsorship scams, according to Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat.

In her another interim progress report on the implementation of the controversial Public Law 15-108 (new labor reform law), Kaipat told the Legislature that Labor Director Barry Hirsbein is doing "an outstanding job"

of finding sham sponsorships in the employers' applications that are submitted to Labor.

Kaipat said the director and his staff review 4,000 to 5,000 applications a month, and they identify about 300 to 400 questionable applications in an average quarter.

"Those applications are turned down, and some appealed," she said.

The deputy secretary said they have also succeeded in reducing the number of alien

workers in Temporary Work Authorization status.

Kaipat said they have done this by cleaning up all the pending cases from 2007 and prior years, and by instituting new rules for cases pending elsewhere.

"When workers file cases in federal or Commonwealth courts, the Labor Department asks for a court order if the worker is to be permitted to remain in the Commonwealth while out of status," she said.

Kaipat said they allow alien

workers who have cases with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, National Labor Review Board, and U.S. Labor to obtain TWAs without any affirmative action from the adjudicating agency, but that they are considering changing that policy.

"The EEOC alone has more than 100 pending cases from the CNMI that were filed in 2006 and prior years and they have no estimate when they might reach these cases," she pointed out.

## Two Korean travel publications explore Saipan

Journalists from two popular Korean tourist publications arrived on Saipan yesterday and more will come in today to learn more about Saipan's travel offerings and report back to their readers about the unique opportunities and natural beauty to be found here. Their trip will help promote to Korean tourists that, with two daily flights from Korea direct to Saipan, visiting the CNMI is very convenient.

A contingent from *Joon-gang Daily* arrived early yesterday morning to enjoy a wide-ranging introduction to the islands' tourist attractions. The publication is one of Korea's top three nationwide newspapers. In addition, *Joon-gang Daily* will be covering the Second Annual Hell of the Marianas bike race today, which has attracted more than 100 registrants from Saipan, Guam, Korea, Japan, and Russia.

Journalists from *Hana Traveler Magazine* arrive today for three days. Included in their program is a day on Managaha Island for snorkeling, parasailing, and lunch. Also scheduled are a tour of Saipan's historical and natural attractions, a bottom-fishing cruise, an off-road adventure, and a sunset dinner cruise.

The visiting journalists will be staying at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. These tours were arranged jointly by Hana Tour Service and Pacific Island Club.

The JoongAng Media Network is Korea's leading comprehensive media group. The Network includes various forms of media, including print, broadcasting, and the Internet. JoongAng Broadcasting offers non-fiction documentaries; a History Channel, and J Golf. On the Internet, www.Joins.com provides swift, around-the-clock updates on domestic and foreign news. Their magazine publications include the *Monthly JoongAng*, the *Economist*, *Women's JoongAng* and *CeCi*.

*Hana Traveler* is a monthly travel magazine published by Hana Tour, the largest travel agent in Korea with a 15-year history of bringing tourists to Saipan Tinian and Rota. With a circulation of 50,000, the *Hana Traveler* magazine is well-known among the travel industry workers and the general public. Hana Tour Service Inc. specializes in the provision of air ticketing, hotel reservation and travel services. The company's businesses include outbound travel, domestic travel, golf travel, backpacking travel, free individual travel, educational travel, honeymoon travel, air ticketing services and hotel reservation services.

This familiarization tour is sponsored by in-kind donations from Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hana Tour, and Tasi Tours. (MVA)

### FIRST BIRTHDAY

Happy first birthday greetings to Jared Teagan S. Aguon, who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec. 6. "Wishing you lots of blessings and many more birthdays to come!" With lots of love from Grandma Terri, Nina Nessie, Nino Shawn and the whole family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### BELATED BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Miriam Seman, seated right, who celebrated her birthday on Dec. 4, 2008. She is shown here with Terri Kisa, seated left, and Sophia Suda, standing. "Belated happy birthday Kit! Wishing you many more birthdays to come!" From your staff at Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO WITHDRAW

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (formerly known as Aviva General Insurance Pte. Ltd.) intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the CNMI. An application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI has been filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All person interested in this matter should contact Rodney J. Rankin, Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan), Inc. as General Agent for MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., P.O. Box 502177, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or (670) 234-2811.

MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 09 (Capitol Hill), 23 (As Lito, San Vicente), and 27 (Koblerville).

A public hearing will be held:

Date: Wednesday, January 7, 2009  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at  
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan  
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

/s/ Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei  
Acting Chairwoman



# Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 341

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Lynn A. Knight** PUBLISHER  
**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Thailand's vicious circle

**T**hailand's People's Alliance for Democracy made clear long ago that it stands not for democracy or the Thai people but against them. On Tuesday, it claimed another victory in its campaign to replace the democratic system with a royalist autocracy and to substitute the judgment of the military and an allied elite for that of the people. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, whose party won a fair democratic election last December, was forced from office by a questionable court ruling even as thousands of members of the "people's alliance" barricaded two of Thailand's airports, stranding hundreds of thousands of travelers. Mr. Somchai had been in power only two months; his predecessor was ousted in September by an equally curious and convenient court ruling, not long after alliance members occupied the prime minister's offices.

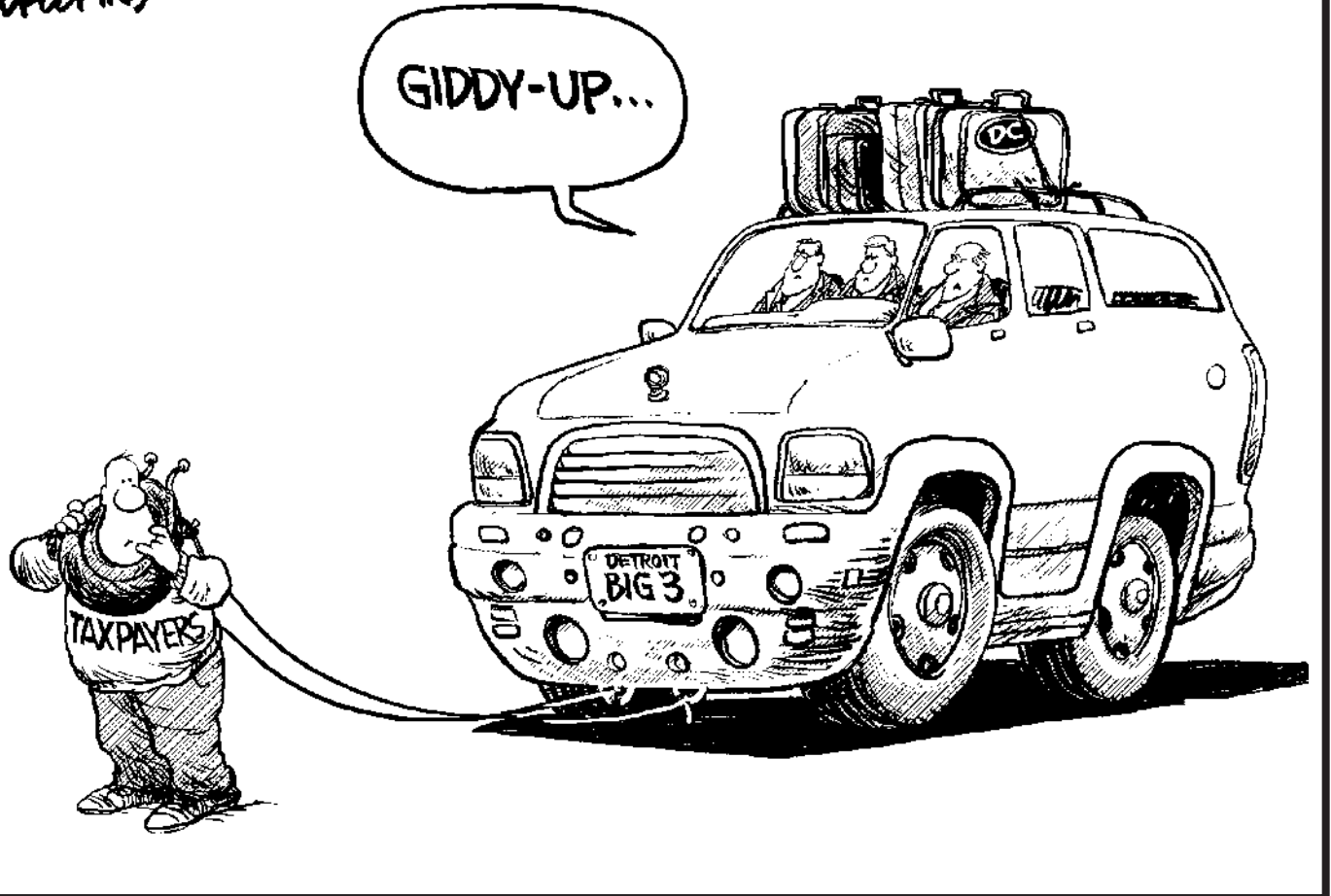
The anti-democratic movement has evolved a simple tactic: Use force to paralyze the government, the capital city or the country (via its vital airports), then wait for the military, the courts or King Bhumibol Adulyadej to intervene. In addition to forcing the past two prime ministers from office, the strategy prompted a military coup in 2006 and an earlier intervention by the king. Yet the larger objective of the alliance remains unrealized and probably unattainable. Thailand's elite would like to destroy the populist political movement of exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and disenfranchise the mostly poor and rural voters who have repeatedly empowered him or his surrogates in democratic elections.

The latest coup seems no more likely to accomplish that goal than the previous ones. Supporters of Mr. Thaksin, anticipating that their party would be banned (for the second time), already had formed a new one. They say they are ready to elect another Thaksin supporter as prime minister. If a new general election is held, as the army commander recently suggested, there's no reason to expect the outcome to be different from the previous three elections: a victory for Mr. Thaksin. The only long-term result of the Alliance for Democracy's campaign is the weakening of the Thai economy and a growing incidence of violence. Seven people were killed in bomb attacks and street battles during the latest siege.

Like traditional elites elsewhere in the developing world, Thailand's onetime governing class has been discomfited as democracy and globalization have brought long-excluded populations into the political system. Populism doesn't usually produce good government, and populists don't always respect the rule of law. But Thailand's "alliance for democracy" is offering the rest of the world a vivid demonstration of why force cannot succeed in undoing the populists' advance.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



## Torture's the wrong answer. There's a smarter way.

By **MATTHEW ALEXANDER**  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

**I** should have felt triumphant when I returned from Iraq in August 2006. Instead, I was worried and exhausted. My team of interrogators had successfully hunted down one of the most notorious mass murderers of our generation, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq and the mastermind of the campaign of suicide bombings that had helped plunge Iraq into civil war. But instead of celebrating our success, my mind was consumed with the unfinished business of our mission: fixing the deeply flawed, ineffective and un-American way the U.S. military conducts interrogations in Iraq. I'm still alarmed about that today.

I'm not some ivory-tower type; I served for 14 years in the U.S. Air Force, began my career as a Special Operations pilot flying helicopters, saw combat in Bosnia and Kosovo, became an Air Force counterintelligence agent, then volunteered to work as a senior interrogator in Iraq. What I saw in Iraq still rattles me—both because it betrays our traditions and because it just doesn't work.

Violence was peaking during my five-month tour. In February 2006, the month before I arrived, al-Zarqawi's forces (members of Iraq's Sunni minority) blew up the golden-domed Askariya mosque in Samarra, a shrine revered by Iraq's majority Shiites, and unleashed a wave of sectarian bloodshed. Reprisal killings became a daily occurrence, and suicide bombings were as common as car accidents. It felt as if the whole country was being blown to bits.

Amid the chaos, four other Air Force criminal investigators and I joined an elite team of interrogators attempting to locate al-Zarqawi. Our methods astonished me. The Army was still conducting interrogations according to the Guantanamo Bay model: Interrogators were nominally using the methods outlined in the U.S. Army Field Manual, the interrogators' bible, but they were bending—and often breaking—the rules in every way possible. I don't have to belabor the point; dozens of newspaper articles and books have been written about these interrogations based on fear and control, which often resulted in torture and abuse.

I refused to participate in such practices and extended that prohibition to my team of interrogators. I taught a new methodology—one based on building rapport with suspects, showing cultural understanding and using old-fashioned brainpower to tease out information. I personally conducted more than 300 interrogations and supervised more than 1,000. My team's methods are not classified (they're listed in the unclassified Field Manual), but the way we used them was, I like to think, unique. We got to know our enemies, we learned to negotiate with them, and we adapted criminal investigative techniques to our work (something that the Field Manual permits, under the concept of "ruses and trickery"). Our efforts started a chain of successes that ultimately led to al-Zarqawi.

Our attitudes changed along the way. We no longer saw our prisoners as the stereotypical al-Qaida evildoers we had been repeatedly

briefed to expect; we saw them as Sunni Iraqis, often family men protecting themselves from Shiite militias and trying to ensure that fellow Sunnis would have some access to wealth and power in the new Iraq. Most surprisingly, they turned out to despise al-Qaida in Iraq as much as they despised us, but al-Zarqawi and his thugs were willing to provide them with arms and money. (I pointed this out to Gen. George Casey, former top U.S. commander in Iraq, when he visited my prison in summer 2006. He did not respond.)

My team was right to think that many disgruntled Sunnis could be peeled away from al-Zarqawi. A year later, Gen. David Petraeus helped boost the so-called Anbar Awakening, in which tens of thousands of Sunnis turned against al-Qaida in Iraq and signed up with U.S. forces, cutting violence in the country dramatically.

Our new interrogation methods led to one of the war's biggest breakthroughs: We convinced one of al-Zarqawi's associates to give up his location. On June 8, 2006, U.S. warplanes dropped two 500-pound bombs on a house where al-Zarqawi was meeting with other insurgent leaders.

That wasn't enough to convince the joint Special Operations task force, for which I worked. The old methods continued. I came home feeling as if my mission was far from accomplished, and soon after the public learned that the CIA had repeatedly used waterboarding to try to get information out of detainees.

I know the counter-argument well: that we need the rough stuff for the truly hard cases, such as battle-hardened core leaders of al-Qaida. But we turned several hard cases with our techniques. A few gave up critical information without abandoning the jihadist cause. One told me: "I thought you would torture me, and when you didn't, I decided that everything I was told about Americans was wrong. That's why I decided to cooperate."

Torture and abuse are inconsistent with American principles. And on the pragmatic side, torture and abuse cost American lives.

I learned in Iraq that the No. 1 reason foreign fighters flocked there to fight were the abuses carried out at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. Our policy of torture was directly recruiting fighters for al-Qaida in Iraq. These foreigners carry out most suicide bombings in Iraq and are also involved in most of the attacks on U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq. At least half of our losses and casualties in that country have come at the hands of foreigners who joined the fray because of our program of detainee abuse. The number of U.S. soldiers who have died because of our torture policy will never be definitively known, but it is fair to say that it is close to the number of lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. How anyone can say that torture keeps Americans safe is beyond me—unless you don't count American soldiers as Americans.

I began to write about my experiences because I felt obliged not only to point out the broken wheel but to try to fix it. When I submitted my manuscript to the Defense Department for a standard review to ensure that it did not contain classified information, I got a nasty

See TORTURE on Page 7



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## An idea lost on fanatics

There are many facts remaining to be discovered about the atrocities in Mumbai last week, but we already know what we really need to know.

The physical institutions targeted and the individuals singled out for particular attention by the killers—Americans, Britons and Jews—are signatures of the fanatic Islamists we've come to know as jihadis. The sites of their attacks may vary—New York, London, Madrid, Nairobi, Mumbai—but the object of their quarrel with history remains the same: modernity.

Mumbai was selected not simply because it was a so-called soft target but because it is a symbol of modernity in the world's most populous democracy. The city the West first knew as Bombay is today the symbol of India's place in the modern world, as the center not only of banking, commerce and a burgeoning high-tech sector but one of the world's great film industries. (It's worth recalling that when the Taliban swept to power in Afghanistan, one of the first things it did was to close the cinemas and ban DVDs from Mumbai's Bollywood.)

The places the killers struck—luxury hotels, a railway station, a hospital for women and children, the Chabad Jewish center—are all powerfully linked in the popular mind with the modern world. As the French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy has argued, the jihadis have linked anti-Americanism, anti-British sentiment (the assumption is that London is Washington's lap dog) and anti-Semitic antagonism toward Zionism into a potent new ideology. To the extent it seems to find an increasingly sympathetic hearing in some fashionable sectors of the intellectual West, including the U.S., Levy correctly labels it "the socialism of imbeciles."

Like all the totalitarian movements that have come before it, hatred of liberty and Jews is the real foundation of contemporary jihadism, and not the traditions of Islam or its canonical prescriptions.

Finally, there's the particular tragedy incorporated in the murder of the young American rabbi, Gavriel Holtzberg, his Israeli wife, Rivka, and four others, including a rabbinical colleague. Because we are a people of both faith—peacefully expressed in many creeds—and the future, there is something in the Ameri-

can conscience that recoils with a special horror when violence is done to clergy and the young.

The brittle, fanatic minds that could countenance something like the Mumbai massacre are well armored against real-world complexities, like irony and paradox. If they were not, they might have realized that they could not have found a more confounding target for their hatred of Jews than one of the thousands of houses around the world operated by the Chabad Lubavitch movement for which Holtzberg and his wife served as emissaries. The facility they ran is really an observant Jewish version of the old-fashioned settlement houses, a place that simply was there to educate and to help.

Adherents of the jihadi ideology share a common presumption that the modern world in all its manifestations is the implacable enemy of a traditional religiosity. Modernism, in their minds, is built on concepts that pollute: reason, individual liberty, democracy, pluralism. Like all totalitarians, they demand submission to a single pure idea. Difference equals contamination; reason leads to sacrilege.

If ever there were a living retort to the obscenity of these presumptions, it is the current of Hasidic Judaism that began more than 200 years ago in the Byelorussian village of Lyady. There, a philosopher rabbi—Shneur Zalman—sought a reconciliation of intellect and heart as a compromise to the controversy then dividing the Jewish world between those who held to a tradition of scholarship and disciples of the embryonic Hasidic movement, which stressed an emotive religious practice. He succeeded brilliantly and founded a movement that today commands the loyalties of hundreds of thousands of Orthodox Jews around the world.

The hallmark of Chabad's approach is an openness to—indeed, an embrace of—the modern world, while insisting that it make a place for their deeply traditional religious devotion. Around the world Lubavitcher Hasidim are living precisely the sort of lives the jihadi ideology insists are impossible. Culturally, they participate fully in the pluralist democracies, while privately, they profess fully a deeply traditional spirituality. Faithful to their own long history, they are valued and good neighbors to others.

Zalman taught his followers that their God desires the development of their minds as well as their hearts. The fully realized human

By **TIM RUTTEN**

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

*Rutten is a Times columnist. E-mail Rutten at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.*



*Like all the totalitarian movements that have come before it, hatred of liberty and Jews is the real foundation of contemporary jihadism, and not the traditions of Islam or its canonical prescriptions.*

intellect, he argued, was built on da'at (knowledge), bina (understanding) and chochma (wisdom).

It's hard to imagine a more stinging defeat for the Mumbai killers than the fact that a movement of faith founded on such an idea has endured in fidelity to its traditions for more than two centuries, and will continue to thrive when, as the old Yiddish expression goes, the names and memories of the murderers have been erased.

## Pirates: After 2,000 years, it's time for a new strategy

By **PETER FROMUTH**

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Somali pirates hijack another boat—or two or three—every day despite the best efforts of the U.S. 5th Fleet, NATO, Russia, India and others. This is not new; pirates have been frustrating the mighty for at least 2,000 years—since snatching Julius Caesar, then ransoming him for 50 talents, and leading Alexander the Great on a wild goose chase around the Mediterranean. As the U.N. Security Council grapples with Somali piracy, its members are in venerable company.

According to Plutarch, Caesar got even: He caught and crucified his hapless captors, but he never drove piracy from the Roman Empire. Today's brigands have faster boats and rocket-propelled grenades, but their best assets are the same as those used to stymie Caesar and Alexander—big seas, many prey and few protectors. For Somali pirates today, the odds are even better: They have a hunting ground of 2.5 million square nautical miles (about five times the size of the Gulf of Mexico) transited by 20,000 commercial ships annually. Muscle-bound warships try but regularly fail to defend all those merchantmen.

It may be time for a new strategy. This week, the Security Council gave Secretary General Ban Ki-moon 90 days to come up with one. The usual nostrums do not look promising. Late last month, for example, the council adopted a British plan for travel and financial sanctions against the pirates' leading lights. That's fine, but the pirates seem to have their own means of travel and finance, including million-dollar bounties that fall from the sky in suitcases—and no one seems to know who the leaders are anyway. The Organization of

African Unity wants a U.N. peacekeeping force to tame Somalia, but the United Nations has sought recruits for months without success. Private security guards will shoot it out with bandits for \$5,000 to \$20,000 a day, but many ships carry flammable cargos, so seaborne firefights between thugs and testosterone-soaked mercenaries are best avoided.

The global shipping association wants to seal off Somalia with a blockade. Since the country has the longest coast in Africa, that's a little ambitious. But the shippers are on the right track. Somali pirates need havens that have water deep enough not to run trophy ships aground yet that are close enough to towns for resupply. From the capital, Mogadishu, north around the Horn of Africa into the Gulf of Aden, Somalia has only a few suitable places: Eyl, Hobyo and Harardhere on the Indian Ocean; Bosaso on the Gulf of Aden; Mogadishu itself; and possibly one or two more. Separate the pirates from those havens, and their cost-risk ratios may once again favor fishing.

At each of those ports, cooperating naval vessels could establish a sort of police line to challenge, board and inspect suspicious craft, both leaving and returning. Evidence of piratical acts or intent would trigger confiscation of their boats, weapons and materials and the detention of crews for prosecution. One small naval ship per port, equipped with a helicopter and smaller boats, would suffice. The dozen ships patrolling these waters could handle this task with ships to spare for pirate duty farther out at sea.

A legal basis for a pirate blockade exists. In fact, piracy has been a crime under international law since the 17th century. Building on customary law and the U.N. Law of the Sea Convention, the Security Council in June authorized a six-month mandate, which

this week was extended for a year, for cooperating states to use force against pirates in Somali territorial waters and on the high seas. Because piracy is a crime of universal jurisdiction, captors with no connection to the victims, property or perpetrators may detain and prosecute suspects. For those who prefer to extradite suspects from Somalia, nearby Kenya is an option; its courts have been convicting pirates for years.

Alongside those sturdy criminal and jurisdictional foundations is the Security Council's own authority to impose blockades, under Article 42 of the U.N. Charter, to counter threats of any stripe to international security. Because the multinational flotilla already in place and the European Union force en route to Somalia essentially operate independently, a clear mandate would facilitate agreement on a number of key issues—tasks, tactics, communications, rules of engagement and logistics. A limited blockade would also cost less than the combined insurance premiums, security charges, expenses from longer voyages and million-dollar bounties likely to be paid if piracy continues. Shippers could cushion the blow to national treasuries by paying into a multinational fund—set up outside the United Nations—to support the operation.

The concept of a blockade was rejected last month by a NATO spokesman as something not "contemplated" by the Security Council. Now, though, it should be. Trillions of dollars in commercial cargos transit the sea lanes annually; so long as they do, thugs in boats will prey on them. The world has a chance to shut down the Somali pirate franchise. Let's not squander it.

*The writer, a lawyer, served at the State Department and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations during the Clinton administration.*

## TORTURE

From Page 6

shock. Pentagon officials delayed the review past the first printing date and redacted an extraordinary amount of unclassified material—including material from the Army's Field Manual and the Army Web site. I sued, first to get the review completed and later to appeal the redactions. Apparently, some in the military command are not only unconvinced by the arguments against torture; they don't even want the public to hear them.

My experiences have landed me in the middle of another war, one

even more important than the Iraq conflict: one about who we are as Americans. Murderers like al-Zarqawi can kill us, but they can't force us to change who we are. Only we can do that to ourselves.

Americans must fight to protect our values from not only from al-Qaida but those within our own country who would erode them. Other interrogators are also speaking out, including some former members of the military, the FBI and the CIA who met last summer to condemn torture and have spoken before Congress—at considerable personal risk.

There truly is a better way to carry out interrogations, and a way to get out of this false choice between torture and terror.

I'm quite optimistic these days, partly because President-elect

Barack Obama has promised to outlaw the practice of torture throughout our government. But until we renounce the sorts of abuses that have stained our national honor, al-Qaida will be winning. Al-Zarqawi is dead, but he has still forced us to show the world that we do not adhere to the principles we say we cherish. We're better than that. We're smarter, too.






*Alexander led an interrogations team assigned to a Special Operations task force in Iraq in 2006. He is the author of *How to Break a Terrorist: The U.S. Interrogators Who Used Brains, Not Brutality, to Take Down the Deadliest Man in Iraq*. He is writing under a pseudonym for security reasons.*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲90 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼78

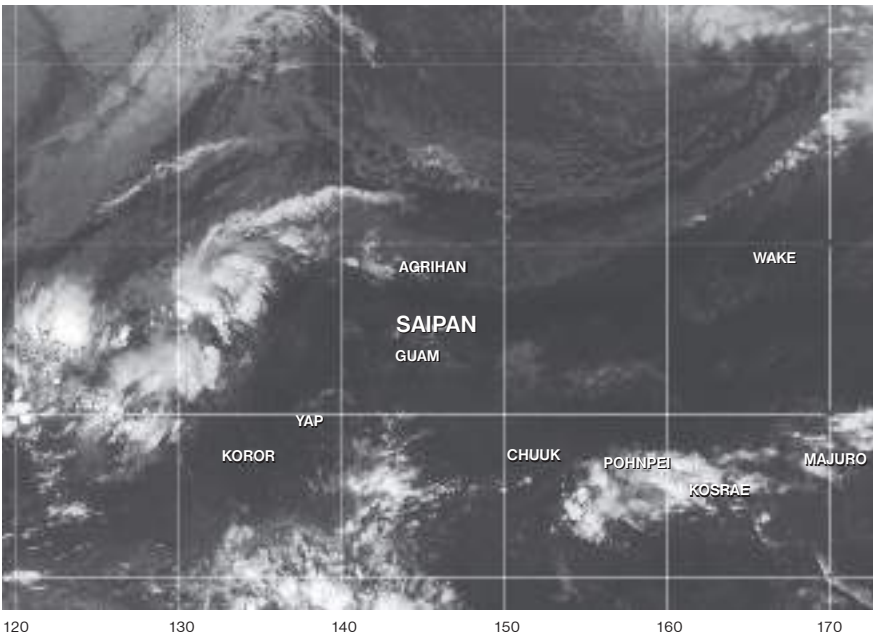
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲70 ▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲34 ▼16
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼69
London	Cloudy	▲43 ▼36
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Manila	Showers	▲80 ▼71
Melbourne	Showers	▲73 ▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼61
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲37 ▼29
Osaka	Cloudy	▲40 ▼27
Paris	Showers	▲42 ▼34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲40 ▼25
Rome	Showers	▲56 ▼40
Salem	Cloudy	▲47 ▼34
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼45
Seoul	Flurries	▲24 ▼19
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼33
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲40 ▼31

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:13AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
7:04AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
2:12PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
8:57PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, DEC. 5, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches eastward from 17N130E to 17N140E through the Northern Marianas then curving northeastward as a cold front to 20N155E to beyond 25N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 10N and 20N from 130E to 133E and between 17N and 21N from 133E to 145E. Also scattered showers are occurring along and out to 100 miles northwest of the cold front boundary. Scattered showers are found between 3N and 8N from 142E to 144E. Scattered trade-wind showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Pohnpei and Kosrae between 5N and 8N from 155E to 165E and within 50 miles of a point at 3N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring northeast of Majuro between 8N and 10N from 173E to 176E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:31AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:31AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:32AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:32AM	5:47 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:26PM	
Sunday	1:03PM	12:44 AM
Monday	1:42PM	1:36 AM
Tuesday	2:26PM	2:32 AM
Wednesday	3:15PM	3:31 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan  
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



Schedule of Religious Services														
CATHOLIC														
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm														
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm														
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm														
<b>Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish</b> Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am														
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm														
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm														
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm														
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm														
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm														
<b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am														
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm														
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism														
<b>Santa Soledad</b> Sunday: 7:30am														
PROTESTANT														
<b>Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan</b> Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm														
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm														
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm														
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm														
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions														
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm														
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)														
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto														
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)</b> Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)														
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)														
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday														
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm														
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)														
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm														
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm														
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620														
<b>Saipan Bible Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm														
<b>Saipan Christian Church</b> Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)														
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm														
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm														
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm														
<b>First Baptist Church</b> (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship
	9am	Sunday school												
	10am	Regular worship												
	6pm	worship												
Wednesday	7pm	worship												
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center</b> Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism														
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,						
7am-9am	English service													
7am-9am	Sunday school													
10am-12noon	English service,													
<b>Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church</b> Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S														

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 6, 1999

**2 new high schools for Saipan okayed**

A new high school will be built on a 15-hectare lot in Kagman on which the new elementary school is currently under construction as part of a new plan to help ease overcrowding at the Marianas High School. Another high school will also be erected at a Public School System property in Koblerville under the proposal expected to be approved by the Board of Education this week, according to officials. BOE members met last Friday with Division of Public Lands officials as well as with Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, chair of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, to seek solution to where to allot space for the proposed Kagman facility.

**67 percent of students shun NMC**

A study conducted by the Northern Marianas College advertising class among five private and public schools in Saipan revealed that 67 percent of the 271 students surveyed are not interested in pursuing higher education at NMC. The students polled came from Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Grace Christian Academy and NMC. This survey was a class project of students taking up Fundamentals of Advertising under Prof. Rik Villegas. The project aims to help school officials in marketing the College to local and international students.

December 6,2000

**Pay hike for gov't workers discussed**

House representatives to bicameral discussion on the fiscal budget are mulling over a proposal to set aside money to pay mandatory increase in the salary of government employees who are considered under frozen steps as required by a 1997 law. This plan will be presented during the meeting this week with senators in an effort to hammer out a spending measure for FY 2001 acceptable to both chambers, according to House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta. Public Law 10-76, enacted in the 10th Legislature, has authorized the governor to compensate employees on frozen steps of the pay-scale every two years, he said.

**Weak peso drives Filipinos to remittance companies**

Deeper plunge of the Philippine currency caused by political instability in the country, is driving Filipinos in the Northern Marianas to sending out more greenback to relatives back home in order to maximize their dollar's increasing value against the peso. Still, remittance executives believe a good number of Filipino workers here continue to hold their dollars tight in anticipation of the further decline of the peso's value especially when clamor for President Estrada's resignation intensifies as impeachment trial approaches. Government records disclosed Filipinos continue to hold the largest market for the Commonwealth's foreign exchange industry as they sent out more than \$36 million in total greenback to the Philippines in the first nine months of the year.

December 6, 2001

**UN officials to visit Saipan**

Members of the United Nations' High Commission on Refugees are set to visit Saipan next week to check on the asylum bid of the group of Chinese boat people who were intercepted off the seas of Tinian in 1999. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio confirmed that some members of the UN High Commission on Refugees will be flying in on December 12 and will be staying in the CNMI until December 15. "They are coming over for the asylum case that I believe took place several years back in Tinian. This is in connection with the Chinese boat people that we intercepted. We had to process all their immigration papers on Tinian and some of them have asked for asylum," said Tenorio.

**‘BB Administration to decide on Taliban detention plans’**

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has left it up to the next administration to make any decision or to issue any official comments about the reported plan to use Tinian as a holding area for al-Qaida terrorists. According to the Governor, he has learned that Governor-elect Juan N. Babauta has been meeting with White House officials in Washington DC since last week and, although he does not know the topics taken up during the discussion, he expressed belief that Babauta would consider all angles before making any decision on the matter.

# Business

## Carmakers’ bailout pleas hit by Senate skepticism

WASHINGTON (AP)—Desperate U.S. automakers ran into fresh obstacles from skeptical lawmakers Thursday as they appealed with rising urgency—and a new dose of humility—for a \$34 billion bailout. Without help, said one senator, “we’re looking at a death sentence.”

With lawmakers in both parties pressing the automakers to consider a pre-negotiated bankruptcy—something they have consistently shunned—the Big Three were contemplating a government-run restructuring that could yield results similar to bankruptcy, including massive downsizing, in return for the bailout billions. But there was no assurance they could get even that.

And that wasn’t all the unwelcome news. Congressional officials said one leading proposal—to tap an already approved fund set aside for making cars environmentally efficient—wouldn’t give the carmakers nearly as much money as they say they need.

The auto executives pleaded with lawmakers at a contentious Capitol Hill hearing—their second round in less than a month—for emergency aid before year’s end. But with time running out on the current Congress, skepticism about the bailout appeared to be as strong as ever.

“In all due respect, folks, I don’t think there’s faith that the next ... three months will work out, given the past history,” said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y. “No thinking person thinks that all three companies can survive,” said Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Chris Dodd, chairman of the

## Oil tumbles below \$44 a barrel, gas hits new low

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Oil tumbled below \$44 a barrel Thursday and average gasoline prices slipped under \$1.80 a gallon, both four year lows, as unemployment benefit claims hit a 26-year high and major companies announced more job cuts. The unprecedented decline in energy prices has provided some relief to consumers and businesses, it has occurred as the nation dips into recession. Fewer people have jobs to drive to. Gasoline futures for January delivery closed below a dollar, with optimism about the nation’s economic health in serious decline. It was the first close below \$1 since 2006, when gasoline began trading in the current format. When gasoline included the additive MTBE, it last crossed the \$1 barrier in February 2004.

Veteran energy analysts were stunned as they watched light sweet crude dip nearly 7 per-

cent, or \$3.12, to settle at \$43.67 on the New York Mercantile Exchange by early afternoon.

Just four months ago, crude rocketed close to \$150 and the average gallon of gasoline went for more than \$4 per gallon. Crude has fallen nearly \$27 in just one month.

No one believed crude would lose \$100 in value between July and December, said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. Some analysts believe demand could evaporate further early next year.

“I think the traders are looking at that and they’re saying, ‘Well, December is OK, it’s relatively balanced here and there, but my goodness all of these layoffs after Christmas, the cold weather, the cocooning, the bills coming due after Christmas, January is just going to be awful,’” Kloza said.

Banking Committee, was the senator who spoke of a death sentence—though he also said, “We’re not going to leave town without trying” to help. The auto executives are to make their case at a House hearing on Friday, and Congress could take up rescue legislation next week in an emergency session.

But Democratic congressional leaders were leaning on the White House to act on its own. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., wrote to President George W. Bush on Thursday asking him, as they have repeatedly, to use the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund to help the auto makers—something the administration has consistently refused to do. They argued that such a course was justified because of the potential for grave harm to the financial sector in the event of a carmaker collapse.

Bush, too, was skeptical. In an interview with NBC News, he said, “No matter how important the autos are to our economy, we don’t want to put good money after bad. In other words, we want to make sure that the plan they develop is one that ensures their long-term viability for the sake of the taxpayer.” President-elect Barack Obama was keeping his distance, and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who has been dealing with both the financial bailout and the auto rescue proposal, said, “He’s going to have to be more assertive than he’s been.” Frank is chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, which will conduct Friday’s hearing.



# Nation

## Democrats: Obama needs hands-on economic approach

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats are growing impatient with President-elect Barack Obama's refusal to inject himself in the major economic crises confronting the country. Obama has sidestepped some policy questions by saying there is only one president at a time. But the dodge is wearing thin. "He's going to have to be more assertive than he's been," House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., told consumer advocates Thursday.

Frank, who has been dealing with both the bailout of the financial industry and a proposed rescue of Detroit automakers, said Obama needs to play a more significant role on economic issues.

"At a time of great crisis with mortgage foreclosures and autos, he says we only have one president at a time," Frank said. "I'm afraid that overstates the number of presidents we have. He's got to remedy that situation."

Obama has maintained one of the most public images of any president-elect. He has held half a dozen press conferences, where he has entertained question after



President-elect Barack Obama steps out of his vehicle before boarding a flight at Midway Airport in Chicago, Monday, Dec. 1, 2008.

AP

question about the economy, the mortgage crisis, and the flailing auto industry. He called for passage of extended unemployment benefits—which has passed—and even a stimulus package if possible before Jan. 20. But he has stayed away from trying to dictate remedies for the toughest problems Congress is confronting: the auto industry's troubles and how to spend the \$700 billion bailout.

Frank's remarks came as the Bush administration considers whether it needs the second half of the \$700 billion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program aimed at helping the financial sector before Obama takes office on Jan. 20. An Obama official said the Bush administration reached out to the transition team about tapping into the money. The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said Obama's transition team urged the administration to talk to bipartisan congressional leaders and assemble a meeting between the White House and Congress. The official said the Obama team offered to participate in a bipartisan meeting if it would be helpful.

## US mulls unusual tactic as Blackwater charges loom

WASHINGTON (AP)—Blackwater Worldwide guards involved in the deadly 2007 Baghdad shooting of Iraqi civilians could face mandatory 30-year prison sentences under an aggressive anti-drug law being considered as the Justice Department readies indictments, people close to the case said.

Charges could be announced as early as Monday for the shooting, which left

17 civilians dead and strained U.S. relations with the fledgling Iraqi government. Prosecutors have been reviewing a draft indictment and considering manslaughter and assault charges for weeks. A team of prosecutors returned to the grand jury room Thursday and called no witnesses.

Though drugs were not involved in the Blackwater shooting, the Justice De-

partment is pondering the use of a law, passed at the height of the nation's crack epidemic, to prosecute the guards. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 law calls for 30-year prison terms for using machine guns to commit violent crimes of any kind, whether drug-related or not.

The people who discussed the case did so on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to dis-

close matters that are not yet public.

Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd declined to comment on the report.

Blackwater, the largest security contractor in Iraq, was thrust into the national spotlight after the Sept. 16, 2007, shooting. Its guards, all decorated mili-

tary veterans hired to protect U.S. diplomats overseas, were responding to a car bombing when a shooting erupted in a crowded intersection.

The guards carried government-issued machine guns and drove heavily armored trucks equipped with turret guns.

## Gun club, police chief indicted in boy's Uzi death

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Three men, including a small-town police chief, were indicted Thursday on involuntary manslaughter counts in the gun-fair death of an 8-year-old who accidentally shot himself in the head with an Uzi that a prosecutor said he never should have been allowed to handle.

The club where the fair was held also was charged. The fair had promised shooters would have certified instructors in an advertisement, but District Attorney William Bennett said the child, Christopher Bizilj, was supervised by an uncertified 15-year-old boy.

Christopher, of Ashford, Conn., lost control of the 9mm micro submachine gun as it recoiled while he was firing at a pumpkin Oct. 26 at the Machine Gun Shoot and Firearms Expo at the Westfield Sportsman's Club in western Massachusetts.

Pelham Police Chief Edward Fleury was charged because he owns the sponsor of the gun fair, COP Firearms & Training. Two men who brought the automatic weapon to the show, Carl Guiffre of Hartford, Conn., and Domenico Spano, of New Milford, Conn., also were indicted.

An involuntary manslaughter conviction carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence and \$1,000 fine. The term could be five years or less for someone with no prior convictions.

In this photo taken Oct. 29, 2005, Dominic Spano, front, of New Milford, Conn., and his son, Michael Spano, 12, load an MG-42 machine gun during the Westfield Sportsman's Club's annual Machine Gun Shoot and Firearms Expo at the club ground in Westfield, Mass.

AP



## President, first lady buying home in Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush have bought a home among business leaders and prominent Republican donors in an affluent North Dallas neighborhood, where they will live after the president leaves office in January.

Laura Bush's press secretary, Sally McDonough, said Thursday that the Bushes purchased a home in the Preston Hollow area, where some of the state's wealthiest residents live in some of its most expensive houses.

"We picked out a house, but we don't have occupancy of it. So as soon as we do, we'll announce exactly where it is," Mrs. Bush told NBC News on Thursday. "We're looking forward to that."

While the White House has declined to disclose the address, local property records indicate that Robert McCleskey, a Bush family friend from Midland who has done accounting work for the family, recently bought an

8,500-square-foot house with a market value of \$2.1 million on a cul-de-sac with about a half-dozen homes.

McCleskey is listed as a trustee on the ranch-style brick house on Daria Place, and he said the house was bought Oct. 1. He said he could not say for whom the home was purchased.

Property records list other homeowners in the neighborhood as Tom Hicks, owner of the Texas Rangers who has a \$32.3 million mansion adjacent to the cul-de-sac, billionaire T. Boone Pickens and Republican donor Harold Simmons.

"If he moves next door, we'd love it," Hicks said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "The secret service would make the neighborhood safer!"

The president is buying his post-White House home at a time of falling real estate prices and lowered mortgage interest rates.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### NY soldier acquitted by jurors in officers' deaths

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP)—A military jury has acquitted a New York Army National Guard soldier in the 2005 bombing deaths of two superiors in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Alberto Martinez was found not guilty on all counts Thursday after a six-week trial at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He has been in military custody since his arrest in the deaths of Capt. Phillip Esposito of New York and 1st Lt. Louis Allen of Pennsylvania. Both men died when an anti-personnel mine exploded outside their room on a

U.S. military base in June 2005. All were members of the 42nd Infantry Division. Witnesses had testified that Martinez and Esposito's relationship was tense because the officer believed Martinez was lax in operating the unit's supply room.

#### Calif. trio charged with torturing, abusing teen

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)—A central California couple was charged Thursday with kidnapping and torturing a teenager that authorities say was sometimes kept shackled inside their home and abused with a baseball bat, belt and knife. The

boy's one-time guardian was charged with similar allegations. Kelly Layne Lau and husband Michael Schumacher were charged with 13 counts of abuse, and former guardian Caren Ramirez, whom the boy called an aunt, was charged with 10 counts. The three were also charged with corporal injury to a child, child abuse and aggravated mayhem, which the San Joaquin County District Attorney's office said could yield life sentences if they are convicted. The boy escaped from the couple's home in Tracy, about 60 miles east of San Francisco, on Monday and fled

with a chain still attached to his foot to a nearby fitness center. He appeared emaciated, was covered in soot, and wearing only boxer shorts.

#### Minn. teen girls charged in nursing home abuse

A, Minn. (AP)—Two teenage girls who worked at a nursing home have been charged with abuse, accused of taunting, spitting on and groping residents who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. According to the criminal complaint, filed Monday, 19-year-old Brianna Broitzman and 18-year-old Ashton Larson

laughed earlier this year as they spat in residents' mouths, poked and groped their breasts and genitals, and at times mocked them until they screamed. Broitzman and Larson, who worked as part-time aides at the home, have been charged as adults. Larson's father disputed the charges against his daughter in a statement issued to and read on NBC's "Today" show Thursday. "Not all of the charges are as they appear. Much of this has been distorted by the news media," Michael Larson said in the statement. "My daughter was doing nothing more than performing the duties of her job."



# Asia

## India names Pakistani masterminds, date plot to '07

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—A Pakistani militant group apparently used an Indian operative as far back as 2007 to scout targets for the elaborate plot against India's financial capital, authorities said Thursday, a blow to Indian officials who have blamed the deadly attacks entirely on Pakistani extremists.

As investigators sought to unravel the attack on Mumbai, stepping up questioning of the lone captured gunman, airports across India were put on high alert amid fresh warnings that terrorists planned to hijack an aircraft.

Also Thursday, police said there were signs that some of the six victims of the attack on a Jewish center may have been tortured. "The victims were strangled," said Rakesh Maria, a senior Mumbai police official. "There were injuries noticed on the bodies



AP  
An Indian paramilitary soldier stands guard at the Bengaluru International Airport in Bangalore, India, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008.

that were not from firing."

Members of an Israeli rescue group which had a team in Mumbai said it was impossible to tell if the bodies had been abused, however, because no autopsies were conducted in accordance with Jewish tradition.

The surviving gunman, Ajmal Amir Kasab, 21, told interrogators he had been sent by the banned Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba

and identified two of the plot's masterminds, according to two Indian government officials familiar with the inquiry.

Kasab told police that one of them, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Lashkar's operations chief, recruited him for the attack, and the assailants called another senior leader, Yusuf Muzamil, on a satellite phone after hijacking an Indian vessel en route to Mumbai.

## China to issue blacklist of harmful food additives

**BEIJING (AP)**—China will issue a blacklist of food additives that could be harmful, state media said Friday in the wake of a scandal over tainted milk believed to have killed six children and sickened hundreds of thousands.

The government also will step up testing of foods for banned additives, the official English-language China Daily newspaper reported.

"The Ministry of Health is working with related departments on the blacklist that would be updated constantly," Su Zhi,

the ministry's deputy director of the health supervision bureau, was quoted as saying.

Chinese dairy suppliers are accused of adding melamine, a nitrogen-rich chemical used in the production of plastics, to watered-down milk to make it appear higher in protein on quality tests.

It was the latest product-safety scare to hit Chinese-made products, prompting stores to pull from shelves items ranging from baby formula to cookies.

Awareness of the widespread use of food additives has in-

creased in the wake of the milk scandal. A front-page article last week in China's Southern Weekend newspaper questioned whether the addition of bleaching agents to flour was healthy.

Officials in China have been working to restore public confidence in its food chain.

"We will conduct stricter tests on blacklisted substances while checking food production lines," Su was quoted as saying by China Daily. He made the remarks on a China Central Television program Thursday, the paper said.

official says witnesses saw a group of men punch and stab 23-year-old Abdul Sani Doli with a knife at the bar late Wednesday in eastern Sandakan town on Borneo island. The official says a brawl broke out because the men were furious that Abdul Sani was hogging the stage. He says police detained two suspects after Abdul Sani was found dead outside the bar. The official spoke on condition of anonymity Friday because he was not authorized to make public statements.

### China school officials detained in student deaths

**BEIJING (AP)**—Police in northern China have detained three school officials after 11 schoolgirls died of carbon monoxide poisoning from using a charcoal heater in their dormitory, state media said. A dozen fourth-grade girls were found dead Tuesday morning at the Duiziliang Middle School in Yulin city in Shaanxi province. Eleven died and the sole survivor, 11-year-old Cai Maomao, remained in a coma, official Xinhua News Agency said. Police took into custody the school principal, deputy principal and a teacher in charge of class business, Xinhua said late Thursday. It did not say whether the three were formally under arrest or what charges they might face. In addition, the deputy head of the county was fired from the local Communist Party ruling committee, and the education bureau director also was removed from his job, Xinhua said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Thai king's illness sparks anxiety

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)**—In six decades on the throne, Thailand's king has stepped in to defuse political crises and halt bloodshed. But not now: The revered 81-year-old monarch was too ill to deliver his annual birthday speech Thursday. King Bhumibol Adulyadej's failure to show up for the anxiously awaited address shocked a country already reeling from three years of political turmoil and uncertain about its future. Earlier in the week, the country saw the ouster of its government and a seizure by protesters of Bangkok's two airports, sieges which were only lifted Wednesday. "I am worried. I think all Thais are worried. Thailand needs him. He is the only one who can make people on both sides realize they are ruining the country. He is the only one who can unify Thailand," said Rojana Duangkaew, a 28-year-old pharmacist, shortly after the king sent his son and daughter to represent him at the birthday event. Princess Sirindhorn said the king was weak and suffering from bronchitis and inflammation of the esophagus but that his "condition is not serious."

#### Man killed for not sharing karaoke microphone

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Police say a Malaysian man has been stabbed to death by customers at a karaoke bar for singing too much and refusing to share the microphone. A district police

# World

## Iraq OKs pact with timetable; attacks kill 17

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A security pact with a timetable for pulling U.S. forces from Iraq won final government approval Thursday, even as suicide bombers killed 17 people and wounded more than 100. Two Americans were among the dead.

The brazen attacks—the deadliest in the heavily guarded city of Fallujah—raised questions about Iraq's ability to ensure its own security as the U.S. scales down its combat role under the newly ratified U.S.-Iraqi pact, which

calls for an American pullout within three years.

Iraq's three-member presidential council signed off on the pact, removing the last legal barrier so that the agreement can take effect Jan. 1. It also requires American soldiers to leave the cities by the end of June.

Approval by the presidential council came one week after parliament approved the agreement, which was hammered out during months of tough negotiations that at times seemed on the point of collapse.

President Bush called Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani to thank them for their work on the pact, the White House said.

The latest bombings came in cities where the U.S. military has struggled for years to maintain order and underscored the fragility of Iraq's security gains. They added new urgency to U.S. efforts to train and equip an Iraqi security force capable of maintaining order after American troops have gone home.

## Countries looking to US leadership on climate

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—Countries around the world are looking to Barack Obama for leadership in reaching a global climate treaty next year, but no nation will be able to singlehandedly deliver a final agreement, a senior U.N. official said Thursday.

Robert Orr, assistant secretary-general for policy coordination and strategic planning, said the president-elect's comments on the need to address climate change have raised "a lot of hope"—particularly at a time when some governments are talking about

delaying their efforts to curb emissions, partly because of the economic crisis.

"The fact that the United States seems to be visibly moving in the other direction is a very hopeful sign for the negotiation," Orr told a news conference.

Representatives from 190 countries are meeting in the Polish city of Poznan from Dec. 1-12 to work toward an ambitious new treaty that hopefully will be adopted at a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. It would replace the Kyoto Pro-

TOCOL, which expires in 2012.

The United States rejected the Kyoto protocol, which requires 37 countries to slash emissions of heat-trapping gases by an average 5 percent from 1990 levels. Washington argued that Kyoto would harm American business while failing to require similar cuts by China, India and other emerging economies.

Obama, however, has promised to establish annual targets to reduce U.S. emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020, cutting them by another 80 percent by 2050.

## Zimbabwe declares national health emergency

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)**—Zimbabwe declared a national emergency over a cholera epidemic and the collapse of its health care system, and state media reported Thursday the government is seeking more international help to pay for food and drugs to combat the crisis.

The failure of the southern African nation's health care system is one of the most devastating effects of the country's overall economic collapse.

Facing the highest inflation in the world, Zimbabweans are struggling just to eat and

find clean drinking water. The United Nations says the number of suspected cholera cases in Zimbabwe since August has climbed above 12,600, with 570 deaths, because of a lack of water treatment and broken sewage pipes.

Cholera is an infectious intestinal disease that is contracted by consuming contaminated food or water. Its symptoms include severe diarrhea.

Still, residents are getting little help from the government, which has been paralyzed since disputed March elections as President Robert Mugabe and

the opposition wrangle over a power-sharing deal.

"Our central hospitals are literally not functioning," Minister of Health David Parirenyatwa said Wednesday at a meeting of government and international aid officials, according to The state-run Herald newspaper.

International aid agencies and donors must step up their response, Matthew Cochrane, regional spokesman for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Canadian leader suspends Parliament to keep power

**OTTAWA (AP)**—Prime Minister Stephen Harper suspended Parliament on Thursday to avoid almost certain defeat in a confidence vote—an unprecedented move allowing him to retain power and confront Canada's flagging economy. The Conservative leader won the approval of the unelected representative of the head of state for the power to shut down Parliament until Jan. 26, hoping to buy enough time to develop a stimulus package. "Today's decision will give us an opportunity—I'm talking about all the parties—to focus on the economy and work together," Harper said. Harper, whose party won re-election just two months ago, said a budget will be the first order of business when Parliament resumes. Three opposition parties have united against Harper, charging he has failed to insulate Canada from the global financial crisis. The credit crisis and a global sell off of commodities have slowed Canada's resource-rich economy, and the finance minister said last

week he expects a recession.

#### European court makes landmark ruling on DNA rights

**LONDON (AP)**—Europe's top human rights court Thursday struck down a British law that allows the government to store DNA and fingerprints from people with no criminal record—a landmark decision that could force Britain to destroy nearly 1 million samples on its database. Rights groups say the ruling could have even wider implications for the storage of other sensitive and personal data. The case originated when British police refused to destroy DNA samples of two Britons whose criminal cases were dropped. Seventeen judges on the European Court of Human Rights ruled unanimously that keeping DNA samples and fingerprints was in violation of people's right to a private life—a protection under the Human Rights Convention to which the United Kingdom is a signatory. The court also criticized Britain's use of "blanket and indiscriminate" storage. Britain cannot appeal the ruling.



# Maharlika

## PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, December 6, 2008

# Manny Pacquiao: Philippines' folk hero

**MANILA, Philippines (AFP)**—He loves the night life and fancy cars but to his tens of millions of fans in the Philippines, Manny Pacquiao is a working class hero from humble beginnings.

The reigning World Boxing Council lightweight champion—and generally considered the top pound-for-pound fighter in the world—is known for the speed and power of his hands and his blind refusal to quit even when he's down.

Such is his draw in his impoverished home nation that police say whenever he fights, the crime rate drops to zero as millions tune in to watch.

It will be no different on Sunday, when the Philippines shuts down early to root for Pacquiao as he goes head to head with "Golden Boy" Oscar De la Hoya, several time-zones away in a much-hyped "Dream Match" megafight in Las Vegas.

Having the whole country behind him is a major boost.

"I feel their strength behind me," Pacquiao said ahead of the blockbuster bout. "Whenever I fight, I fight for my country."

"This is the fight that people won't forget even in the next 50 years," he was quoted as saying from his Los Angeles training camp.

The left-handed Pacquiao, dubbed "Pacman" for the way he gobbles up rivals, will be competing in his richest fight yet.

Already the Philippines' wealthiest sportsman, Pacquiao



AP

Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, poses for photos at the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008. Pacquiao is scheduled to fight Oscar De la Hoya in a 12-round non-title welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas, on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008.

stands to make at least \$15 million from the fight.

Born to a family of vegetable farmers in a remote part of the southern Philippines, Emmanuel Dapidran Pacquiao dropped out of elementary school aged 12 and found himself on the streets, selling cigarettes to motorists.

He made his professional debut a month after he turned 16, and two weeks before his 20th

birthday he was world champion, seizing the WBC flyweight title in Thailand from defending champion Chatchai Sasakul in a one-punch knockout.

A professional fighter for almost 14 years, Pacquiao has won four world titles, the latest being the WBC lightweight crown he wrested from David Diaz in a ninth round technical knockout in June.

On Saturday, he will be fighting more than 10 pounds (4.5 kilos) above the lightweight limit of 135 pounds.

In March, he won the International Boxing Federation (IBF) international junior featherweight title and the WBC superfeatherweight title, in a split decision rematch with defending champion Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico.

## Bomb blast hurts 6 in southern RP

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A crude bomb exploded outside a drugstore in the southern Philippines, wounding six civilians, just days after police arrested an alleged foreign bomb maker suspected of helping Muslim rebels.

The blast late Thursday was followed by another explosion near the national highway that passes through Isulan town-

ship in Sultan Kudarat province, said military spokesman Maj. Randolph Cabangbang. There were no casualties in the second blast.

"We are investigating the attacks and we are looking into possible involvement of some terror groups active in the region," said police commander Suharto Teng Tucao.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Muslim rebels from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has fought for self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south for decades, and extortion gangs linked to militants have been blamed for past bomb attacks in the volatile area.

## Filipino radioman gunned down 8<sup>th</sup> Philippine journalist killed this year

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A radio commentator was shot dead as he was leaving work, becoming the eighth journalist killed in the Philippines this year, police said Wednesday.

Leo Mila, 38, of Radio Natin in San Roque township in Northern Samar province, was heading to the gate of the station's com-

pound on his motorcycle when shots rang out late Tuesday, police and colleagues said.

Authorities found his bullet-riddled body sprawled in a grassy area near the toppled motorbike, said police investigator Amer Lagrimas.

Police have no immediate suspects and no witnesses have

come forward, he said.

Station manager Alice Cagro told The Associated Press that Mila recently discussed alleged anomalies involving money collected from students' parents in a local school.

Lagrimas said two teachers from the high school will be questioned.

His 47-3-2 record includes 35 knockouts against some of the world's greatest world champions.

His popularity has won him endorsement deals with international as well as Filipino sporting goods, liquor, fast food, and even medicine manufacturers.

Back home, where he has appeared in movies and even recorded an album, he is known as a big spender, with a penchant for fast cars and sports utility vehicles and for enjoying cockfighting in his spare time.

He owns homes in Los Angeles, Manila, and the southern Philippines, along with a cockfighting farm, a resort, a boxing promotion outfit and even a basketball team.

Part of his folk hero charm comes from wearing his heart on his sleeve and being known

to give generously to charity.

Pacquiao has even won the praises of Philippines President Gloria Arroyo, who paraded him during her election campaign, lauding the 29-year-old for showing "the sterling quality of excellence of a Filipino at his best."

His own political ambitions have been less successful, losing to the incumbent when he ran for a House of Representatives seat last year.

But longer term, he is seen as likely making another run at politics, saying he intends to run for Congress again in 2010.

But for now, it's all about Saturday's fight. As Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, says, "It's basically because of what it will do for Manny's life. It's the icing on the cake. It makes him a superstar."

## LABOR FRONT

### The non-business employers

By **FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

#### Q: Who are the non-business employers?

A: A non-business employer is a single individual person who is not incorporated or operating as a partnership or limited liability company. This kind of employer does not have a business license. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, non-business employers may employ full-time alien workers only as domestic helpers, farmers, household maintenance workers, and yard workers.

■ ■ ■

#### Q: Can a person who received food stamps the past year be considered a non-business employer?

A: No. The Regulations state that non-business employers must not currently be receiving nor within the past year have received assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), Security Supplemental from the Social Security Administration, any government subsidy in the form of public utilities from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., or low income housing from the Mariana Islands Housing Authority.

A non-business employer must earn an annual wage or salary equal to or greater than 110 percent of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines for the State of Hawaii.

■ ■ ■

#### Q: Does the income of other household members help in qualifying a person to be considered non-business employer?

A: The Regulations state that members of a household may aggregate their income for purposes of qualifying as a non-business employer. But every person whose income is considered for purposes of meeting the financial requirements of this section must sign the foreign national worker's approved employment agreement and thereby becomes fully responsible, jointly and severally, for all of the employer's obligations under the agreement.

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## Free health screening for OFWs tomorrow

The last quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" will be held tomorrow, Dec. 7, at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is at 7am and the actual conduct of the activity will start at 8am until noon.

The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision checkups. Those availing of blood sugar level checkup must refrain from taking solid and liquid food from midnight to actual testing.

This quarterly conduct of health mission/wellness program by the Philippine Consulate General, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is being done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team and Hardt Eye Clinic. (PR)



## PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

### 2 sprayer planes crash

**TAGUM CITY**—Two planes used as crop dusters in Panabo City and Asuncion town crashed separately for still undetermined reasons in Davao del Norte early Monday, nearly a week after another light plane went down near an airstrip in a banana plantation in Tagum City. The pilots in the latest crashes, identified as Bryan Ted Prediglorio and Capt. Ramie Albora, were only slightly hurt and were brought to the hospital, said Senior Supt. Benilito Bianzon, provincial police chief. One of the planes, owned by Mactan Aviation and hired by Tagum Agricultural Development Corp. (Tadeco), went down in Barangay Upper Sindaton in Panabo at 8:15 a.m. while conducting “spraying runs,” said Chief Insp. Raymundo Lozano, city police chief. The other, a turboprop owned by Dole Philippines, crashed in Purok 1-B in Magatos, Asuncion, at 9:30 a.m. while landing on an airstrip. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

### Land mine wounds 3

**DAVAO ORIENTAL**—A junior officer and three other soldiers were wounded in a land mine explosion during a military operation against communist rebels in the hinterland village of Baganga, Davao Oriental, on Monday, the military reported. One of the soldiers remained in critical condition, said Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military’s Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City, but he did not name the soldier. The rest had only minor injuries, he said. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

### Cell site attack foiled

**CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna**—Police continued to hunt rebels who tried to bomb another Globe cell site in Paete, Laguna. In a text message, Senior. Supt. Manolito Labador, provincial police director, said the men, who wore bonnets and were armed with two .45 cal. pistols and long firearms, attacked the cell site in Sitio Macumbo, Barangay Quinale, at around 6 p.m. But police foiled the attack and drove the rebels away. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

### Gaming firm sends help

**EVENTS**—In response to government efforts to control the typhoid outbreak in Real and Infanta, Quezon, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, through its Sagip Tulong ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, immediately deployed a team of doctors and health workers to help typhoid victims in the province. Pagcor’s medical team, said a press release, recently provided free consultations and emergency medical services to more than 1,500 residents. It also donated medicines and kits to detect typhoid. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

# Cagayan mayor, three bodyguards killed

**TUGUEGARAO CITY**—The mayor of Rizal, Cagayan and three of his security escorts were killed while four others were wounded after they were attacked by armed men in Solana town on Wednesday night, police said.

Police said Mayor Raul de la Cruz, 61, suffered bullet wounds

in the head and body and died while being taken to the St. Paul Hospital in this city.

Three of his security aides—Ramon Gundan Jr., Jomar Baluran and Federico Canay Jr.—died instantly as the armed men fired at the local government bus they were riding as it cruised the

national highway in Barangay Maddarlug in Solana at about 10 p.m. Wednesday.

Four others—Aurelio Caulan, Allan de la Cruz, Nilo Patay and Victor Baluran—were wounded and were taken to the St. Paul Hospital.

Senior Supt. Moro Virgilio

Lazo, Cagayan police director, said De la Cruz and his men were on their way to Metro Manila when the armed men attacked them in a sparsely populated section of the Tuguegarao-Piat Highway in Solana.

Lazo said the police set up checkpoints in the province

and organized teams to pursue the suspects.

He said investigators have been looking at De la Cruz’s political and personal dealings and the involvement of communist rebels to establish the possible motive in the attack. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

## Mom, 8-yr-old son killed at home

By **ALLISON LOPEZ**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Not even a gated subdivision in Parañaque City could protect a mother and her 8-year-old son, who were hogtied and killed inside their home by alleged robbers Wednesday night.

Victims Milagros Gardoque, 46, and her child, Yuichi, were found dead by police around 2 a.m. inside their house on 9th Street, United Parañaque Subdivision-5, Barangay San Isidro.

Gardoque’s body was discovered beneath the stairs while Yuichi’s corpse was located in one of the rooms.

Initial investigation showed that the victims died of strangulation as Gardoque’s neck was tied with a red handkerchief, while electrical cord was used on the child. Their hands were bound by electrical wires.

The victims also sustained bruises on the face and arms but had no gunshot or stab wounds.

Parañaque investigation head, Chief Insp. Glenn Tigson, said the incident likely happened between 6 and 9 p.m. Wednesday since the victims’ bodies were already stiff.

## Camarines Sur: 10th richest province

By **JUAN ESCANDOR JR.**  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**PILI, CAMARINES SUR**—In just a year, Camarines Sur has made a phenomenal leap from 39th place in terms of net income among the country’s 80 provinces to the 10th richest province, according to Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr.

From P1.09 billion in 2006, Camarines Sur’s total equity jumped by 55 percent to almost P2 billion in 2007, making it one of the country’s richest and most financially stable province.

The province also posted revenues amounting to P1.56 billion last year.

It has also become No. 1 in revenues among the provinces in the Bicol region, Villafuerte added.

He said the data were based on an official report of the Commission on Audit on the financial statements for 2007 submitted by 80 provinces, 135 cities and 1,450 municipalities.

The province’s 2007 income rose by P677 million, or about 20 percent, from the previous year’s P833 million.



**SOLAR-POWERED STAR**

Philippine Senator Miguel Zubiri, left, reacts as he is presented with a solar-powered Christmas lantern by environmentalist group Greenpeace Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at the Philippine Senate in Manila. The presentation was made ahead of the Dec. 6 Global Day of Action to coincide with the United Nations climate meeting in Poland.

AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

## CRIME OR LEGITIMATE FIND?

# Teen scavenger finds P3M

## Money changer claims ownership of cash

By **JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN**  
VISAYAS BUREAU

**CEBU CITY, Philippines**—

Is it a crime to keep a treasure found in a garbage dump? Or is it a case of finders, keepers?

A 16-year-old boy who regularly searched the garbage in the Inayawan Landfill in Cebu City found on Wednesday morning a sack containing \$60,000, or almost P3 million.

He first thought the bills were fake so he approached a couple who facilitated the exchange of the dollars into pesos.

After confirming that the bills were not fake, the 16-year-old kept the money, shared some with his fellow scavengers, and even distributed kilos of rice to them.

However, the owner of a money-changing business in Barangay (village) Calamba, Cebu City, surfaced and claimed ownership of the dollar bills, which he said had been placed inside a small sack and mistakenly thrown away as garbage.

The moneychanger informed

## Kin return part of \$60,000 find

**CEBU CITY, Philippines**—A half-brother and a cousin of the 16-year-old scavenger who reportedly found \$60,000 accidentally dumped at the Inayawan landfill turned over \$21,500 to authorities on Friday.

Julie Compuesto, in his 20s and a half-brother of the scavenger, turned over \$17,000 in \$100 bills to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)

while Victoria Candido, a cousin, turned over \$3,500, also in \$100 bills, to Inayawan barangay (village) captain Rustico Ignacio at the barangay hall past 4 p.m. Friday.

Compuesto told local journalists he did not know the whereabouts of his half-brother, who left out of fear after learning NBI agents were looking for him.

He said his half-brother

might be hiding in Bogo where they came from.

Compuesto explained that when his brother opened the package at the landfill, other scavengers also picked the dollar bills that fell on the ground.

Candido said they also spent part of the money to buy 50 sacks of rice and bottles of beer, which they distributed to about 600 scavengers at the dumpsite.

Calamba barangay chairman Victor Quijano Jr. that he went to the Inayawan landfill Wednesday to look for the sack containing the dollar bills but could not find it.

Quijano, in an interview over station dyLa, said a person at the landfill informed the moneychanger that a scavenger found the money.

The viilage chief, who went to the Inayawan landfill and saw

people who appeared to be celebrating, said he sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to recover the money.

He said they already had the names of the scavenger and the couple who helped exchange the dollar bills into pesos.

But the NBI agents who went to the dumpsite found the three no longer around, he said.

But lawyer Briccio Joseph Boholst, president of the Inte-

grated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Cebu City Chapter, said the NBI could not arrest or charge the scavenger.

“There has to be intent to commit the crime. In this situation, where is the intent? I don’t think there was even a crime committed,” Boholst said over station dyLa.

He said the alleged owner should show evidence he owned the money.



# Marriage proposal turns deadly



## UNDERWATER SANTA

Children watch as a diver, dressed as Santa Claus, feeds a stingray and other fishes at the Manila Ocean Park, the Philippines largest oceanarium, in Manila. The diver donned the Santa costume to attract tourists for Christmas holidays. AP

**NESKOWIN, Oregon (AP)**—A romantic marriage proposal on the West Coast turned deadly for the bride-to-be when a wave swept her out to sea.

Scott Napper had taken 22-year-old Leafil Alforque to Proposal Rock near Neskowin Beach to pop the question at a place that got its name from couples ready to marry.

Napper and Alforque had been dating since they met on the Internet in 2005.

But Alforque had arrived in Oregon on a visa from the Philippines just three days before the fateful trip to the coast, *The Oregonian* reported.

Napper said the tide had receded around Proposal Rock on Saturday when the couple began to walk to it. He planned to propose and give her the ring he carried in his pocket.

About 10 feet (3 meters) from the rock, a wave about 3 feet (.9 meters) high suddenly came toward them.

"I turned into it to keep

from getting pulled under it," Napper said.

By the time he turned to find Alforque, only 4-foot-11 (1.2-meter) and 93 pounds (42 kilograms), she had been caught by the receding waters.

"She was about 30 feet (9 meters) away, getting swept away," Napper said.

The 45-year-old Silverton man tore off his jacket to get rid of any extra weight, and when he looked up again she was gone.

"That's the last I saw of her," he said in an interview Wednesday, breaking into tears.

Emergency personnel called by someone on the beach ar-

## RP inflation eases to 9.9 pct. in Nov.

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Inflation in the Philippines slowed for the third straight month in November as prices of commodities, utilities and services declined, the government said Friday.

The inflation rate rose 9.9 percent in November from a year earlier after rising 12.2 percent in October. In the 11 months to November, year-on-year infla-

rived within minutes. Silverton's phone no longer worked after being exposed to the water.

Along with rescuers, he searched for any sign of Alforque.

"I yelled for her," he said. "I was praying to God."

At one point, he saw someone wearing red—the color of her jacket—on the shore signaling for him. But he quickly realized it was a rescuer.

Thick fog and dangerous water conditions hampered the rescue efforts before the search was suspended on Monday.

Her 25-year-old sister, Nova Alforque, said the family hopes the body can be recovered.

tion was 9.4 percent, the government said.

The figure was better than expected. Central bank Gov. Amando Tetangco had predicted November's inflation would be in a range of 10.3 percent to 11.2 percent.

He said the price of rice and other foods continued to fall due to higher supply and favorable weather.

## PERSONAL FINANCE

# 10 most common money mistakes

By MA. SALVE DUPLITO  
INQUIRER.NET

What money mistakes can turn P20,000 to waste in a year?

While mistakes are normal (even so-called experts make them), it won't hurt to know which ones you are committing and how to learn from them.

Putting your act together financially may prove especially useful when times are tough and rocky because even little mistakes that happen again and again can set you back thousands of pesos in a year.

Here are 10 money mistakes most of us make:

### Mistake #1: Living beyond your means

Filipinos are consumed with "wanting to live a better life."

Are you trying to live "that kind of life" with income that cannot sustain that lifestyle and ending up spending more than your monthly paycheck? Yes, you can fund that lifestyle with debt. Don't. Spending more than you earn is the surest way to keep that "better life" further away from reach.

Ralph Liew, chairman of the International Association of Regional Financial Consultants (IARFC) for the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and India, points out that the millionaires next door are the ones who save so much more than they spend.

"They are the ones who are saving a lot of money," he says.

The fix: Put off expenses if the income for the month will put you in debt or cause you not to save money for that period. Thinking twice about small things like the cost of lunch, a

frappuccino or dinner at a restaurant will instill discipline and the habit of living within your means, which is most valuable in fixing money mistakes.

### Mistake #2: Not saving enough

You've heard of the expression "It's not what you make that matters, it's what you keep." Saving monthly is the fundamental habit that makes any person—whether a Jollibee crew or a professional working in a posh office in Makati—wealthy. Starting your first job and earning minimum wage may not make it easy for you to save regularly, but P50 savings per week in a simple jar near your bed is not a bad start.

As you mature, it will be easier to set aside a bigger chunk of money because you've been used to the habit.

"I save half of my salary automatically and try not to think about it," says Anna, a professional working in Ortigas.

The fix: Find a way to automate your savings to make it easier for you to save. There are some banks that provide this service. Make it a goal to save monthly, even if it's just a small part of your income—say 10 percent. Then increase this regularly when finances allow you to squirrel away more of your income.

### Mistake #3: Being materialistic

It is common to see families in the provinces living simply with chickens running around in the yard, pigs being raised in the backyard, malunggay and other vegetables growing near the home. IARFC's Liew says

when he saw Filipinos living this way, he realized that living simply and not measuring your worth by looking at what you have and what you can buy makes a person's life more meaningful.

"Don't try to keep up with the Joneses and don't just keep looking at the material part of life. Be frugal; don't overspend. Some of the people I see in the provinces live simply and they are okay," says Liew.

The fix: Keep your attention focused on the things that matter most: health, family, friends, and community. While money may make your children happy because of the things that it buys, there are other things that will make them equally happy, like loving attention, quality time and playing together, among others. Sometimes, the returns from non-monetary gifts are even higher.

### Mistake #4: Giving in to greed

Billions of pesos every year are sucked into get-rich-quick schemes and scams that easily separates a Filipino from his hard-earned money. Liew says the reason for this is greed. Running after very high returns is a sure way of getting scammed.

The fix: Don't be wowed by quick wealth. Lightning may strike for some people, but the more stable and sure way to wealth is a slow accumulation of savings and investments. How about that hot stock tip or "new investment strategy" earning four percent in a day that made someone a millionaire? Just walk away from it. They will never tell you just how quickly they lost their money.

### Mistake #5: Not knowing what you want

"People don't know what they want and then they end up wanting everything they see," says Liew. One of the building blocks of wealth is to know yourself and your limitations as well as your strengths. Husbands, wives and children should take time to talk about financial goals (i.e. our own home in three years, our own car in two years, studies in the United States for Junior in 10 years, etc.).

The fix: New Year or this coming Christmas holiday is a good time to create a financial road map for yourself or your family. Talk about what you want and how you intend to get there. Think about how long you want to attain your goals. Make a pact to revisit your goals every year to see how you are doing.

### Mistake #6: Failing to pay off debts

The Philippines owes P122 billion in credit card debt, P14.2 billion of which have already fallen overdue as of June. Unfortunately, that's only a small part of consumer debt, as loan sharks still abound. Debt is like a Damocles sword that hangs over your head and makes you afraid to wake up in the morning.

Interest from debt never sleeps; it doesn't take days off or holidays. They are worms that eat voraciously at your financial dreams.

The fix: If you are thinking of borrowing money with no plan on how to repay it, don't.

If you have debt or several debts that need to be paid, create a plan now.

Start paying the ones with the highest interest while paying off the others with as much

money as you can spare.

Then work on through that list until you have paid everything.

### Mistake #7: Getting killed by advertisements

Glossy magazine inserts come in through the mail at a frenzied pace when the holiday season draws near. There are flat-screen LCD televisions to buy and new mobile phone models. Resist them if you don't need them or can't afford them yet.

The fix: If you are vulnerable to advertisements, make the remote your best friend and speed up your channel surfing. Don't even start flipping that glossy magazine insert. Avoiding advertisements or keeping yourself disciplined enough to enjoy them from a distance should help you keep your finances secure this holiday season.

### Mistake #8: Not having a plan

"One of our most common mistakes is not having a financial plan, not following up on the plan and not implementing the plan," says Liew. He notes that many people have New Year's resolutions—for example, to quit smoking—but find themselves still doing so when the next New Year's eve arrives.

The fix: Give yourself the gift of your very own financial plan this Christmas season. You can talk to a financial planner to help you out or do it yourself.

There are many resources on the Internet to help you create a plan that will save you from money mistakes and point you to the right direction when it comes to understanding your money personality, how to save and invest, how to prepare to

retire wealthy and prepare to be pampered in your golden years.

One of these is Money-Smarts, the personal finance blog of the INQUIRER.net.

### Mistake #9: Not having financial education

People think financial education is only for those working in banks, mutual funds or in the financial services industry.

Granted, mathematics or statistics are not easy subjects for all, but knowing financial principles is useful to everyone.

Liew says that even children should have subjects on financial management.

The fix: Don't be shy. Ask among your friends if they know something about taking care of finances. Invest in books and take classes. Personal finance is a growing topic in local media.

### Mistake #10: Procrastinating

Time doesn't stand still, not even for the Pope.

The best time to start making money moves that will save you from a life of want and need is now, not tomorrow or next week.

The best time to start a budget is now. The best time to save for retirement is now.

The fix: Stop reading and start doing.

*Disclaimer: Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.*



# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Gary V detained in Qatar

**MANILA, Philippines**—Gary V was detained for four hours last week at the Qatar airport. He lost his passport while onboard a Qatar Airways plane, according to an SMS from his wife, Angeli.

Gary was released because he was a Unicef ambassador, and given a temporary entry permit. “[At first] they wanted to send him back to Dubai,” the text message said. Gary’s passport was returned to him on Tuesday, after it “went to London and back.”

Gary performed to a crowd of 3,000 in Dubai and 10,000 in Qatar, Angeli said. “It was the biggest pop concert in Qatar history in a very long time,” she added.

### Actor envy

Keanu Reeves, star of the forthcoming sci-fi drama, “The Day the Earth Stood Still,” reveals that he would have loved to play another sci-fi character. “I had a little actor envy,” he says, “when I did not get to play Wolverine (‘X-Men’—the role went to Hugh Jackman).”

The actor believes in life on other planets: “How could there not be? The universe is so vast. I think the idea that life doesn’t exist anywhere

but here is crazy.”

### Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last week-end’s gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Christopher de Leon, on Johnny Delgado who’s suffering from lymphoma: “He’ll recover... he’s tough.”

Pauleen Luna, on Gerald Anderson’s denial that he visited her on the ‘Eat Bulaga’ set: “Na-weirdohan ako when he kept denying...” (Kami rin.)

Gerald asked how long he can wait for Kim Chiu: “Until the day she says yes.” (Kaya pala denied si Pauleen.)

Kim’s reaction: “Kung kami talaga, kami talaga.” (Good girl.)

Paolo Contis, on reports that he and Isabel Oli have parted ways: “Whatever is happening, we will keep it to ourselves.” (Promise?)

Patrick Garcia, asked about his plans in show biz: “Gusto kong maayos muna ang personal na buhay ko.” (That’s right, do us a favor.)

Patrick, asked if he was courting Glaiza de Castro: “Everybody has the right to be happy.” (Ay, ayan na.)

Jennylyn Mercado’s reaction: “That’s okay. Pareho naman kamining single ni Pat... single din si Glaiza ... gusto niyo... ihatid ko pa siya sa bahay ni Glaiza?” (Kakapagod na ’to.)

Patrick, asked how he felt when he saw pictures of his son Alex Jazz on newspapers and Internet sites: “I make the effort, pero ayaw niya eh... she should understand that it’s not about me and her anymore.” (Gee, you could have fooled us.)

Jennylyn, asked if she would finally allow Patrick to visit their child: “It’s a private matter kung ano yung magiging decision ko. Lagi ko sinasabi sa lahat ng interviews ko na out na si Patrick sa picture. So alam nila ang ibig sabihin noon.” (Enough, enough!)

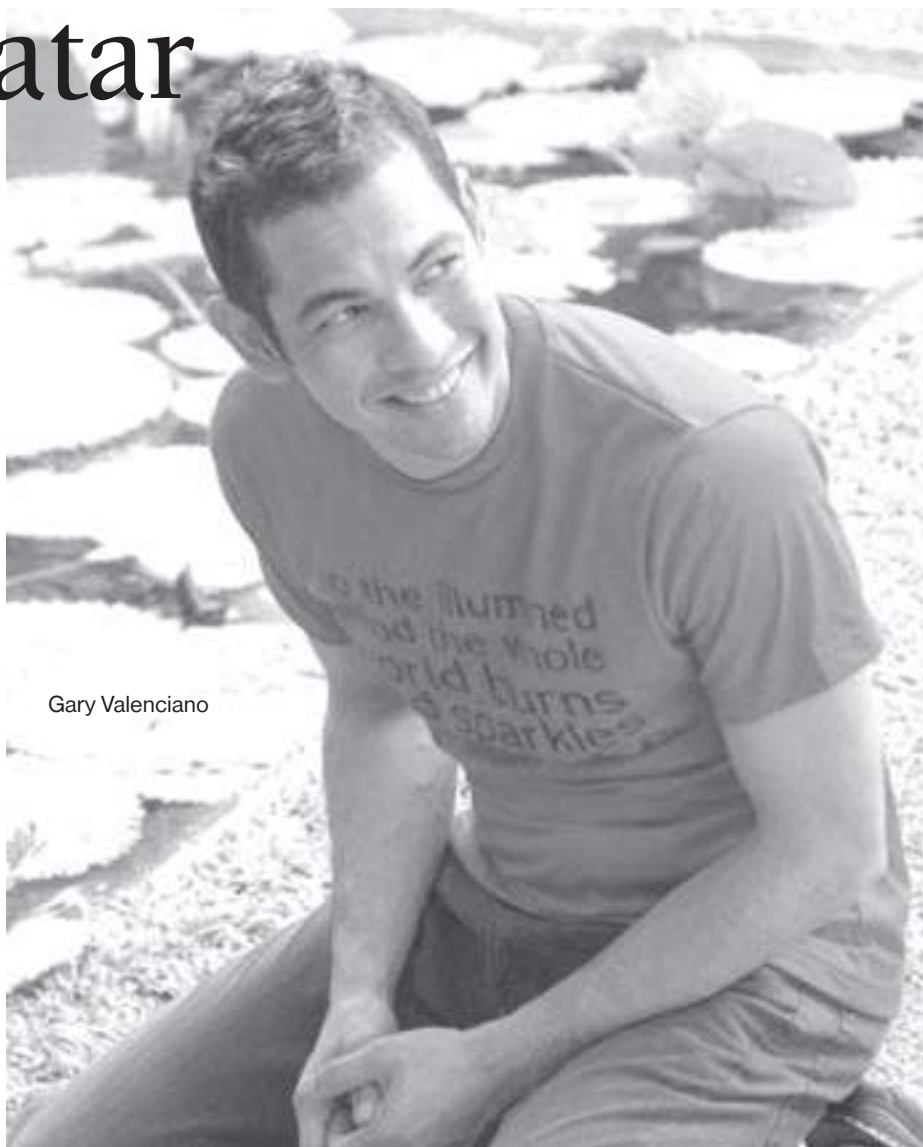
Patrick, asked when he would return to show biz: “Pag makita ko na ’yung anak ko.” (Promise?)

Jennylyn’s reaction: “I don’t care.” (Kami rin!)

Patrick’s message to Alex Jazz: “Mahal ko siya.”

Jennylyn’s message to Patrick: “Grow up and good luck.”

(*Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQUIRER.net, Startalk, The Buzz*)



Gary Valenciano

## Vilma chooses Edu

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Edu Manzano is thrilled that his ex, Vilma Santos, wants him to be her leading man in “A Mother’s Story,” with their son Luis.

“It is a privilege for any actor to perform with an actress of Vi’s caliber,” Edu beams. “And I hear that Luis Manzano guy is pretty good, too (laughs). Mana sa nanay.”

Edu hasn’t been formally offered the role yet. “Heard that Luis will be portraying a gay character. I have no issues with that,” Edu says. “It would be amusing to see him take on a different persona.”

The movie ought to be called “Family Affair.”

### ‘Tanging Ina’ 2

Will Ai Ai de las Alas’ “Tanging Ina Ninoyong Lahat” surpass the box-office hit “Tanging Ina”?

Star Cinema’s entry to the 2008 Metro Manila Filmfest shows Ai Ai’s Ina embarking on a new direction since her kids are grown-up already. She ends up being the President of the Philippines.

The single mom in her emotes. “It pains me every time my kids ask me, Alis ka, ma?” sighs Ai. “Kahit simple joys lang like magkasalo kami kumain, I can see in my kids eyes that they’re happy to be



Edu Manzano

with me.”

What are the things she learns from her kids? “How to use the computer, play PSP 3, do magic with cards and tamang Ingles.” On and off cam, Ai is truly a tanging ina and ama!

### European holiday

Marvin Agustin enjoyed his European holiday immensely. “I like Europe now better than the US,” Marvs said. “It’s so rich in history and culture. If I didn’t have work back here, I would want to live in Paris.”

Marvs fell for the Land of Eiffel!

### Comic ‘promdi’

Known for playing contravida on TV, Alessandra de Rossi takes on the role of a comic promdi in “One Night Only,” Octo Arts Films Metro Manila Film Festival entry.

Alex has no qualms about billing with her co-stars Katrina Halili, Diana Zubiri, Valerie Concepcion and Jennylyn Mercado. “Alam ko naman kung sino ang hot ngayon,” she says. “At sa haba ba naman ng pangalan ko, kahit saan mo ilagay yan, makikita pa rin.”

Alex and Jennylyn have set aside their personal differences so they were able to work together smoothly. What will her Christmas be like? “Malamig ang Pasko ko (laughs). Di lang kasi wala akong BF but kasi I’ll spend Christmas in Italy with my family and winter dun! But in God’s perfect time, I know I’ll meet Prince William.”

There goes the fiery Italiana. Arriba Alessandra!



Alessandra de Rossi takes on the role of a comic promdi in “One Night Only,” Octo Arts Films Metro Manila Film Festival entry.

### Both worlds

Dr. Hayden Kho Jr. juggles his time between medicine and show biz. “I get a different kind of satisfaction from both worlds,” says Hayden. “But being a doctor is more fulfilling because I also give fulfillment to people who want to look good and gain back their self-confidence.”

Hayden is currently finishing his diplomate and has been to Paris and Greece for training in the latest anti-aging treatments. He is elated to be a nominee for Best New Male TV Personality in the Star Awards. With an inspiration like Dr. Vicki Belo, how can Hayden fail?

### Just rumors

Rufa Mae Quinto laughs off rumors linking her to Sam Milby. “He just invited me to his house para makita ko ang design,” explains Pchi. “Kasi he knows I’m building my dream house. We got close lang during Bible study.”

Pchi has reached the point in her life where she’s searching for something deeper. “Ang hirap kahit sinong guy na madikit sa akin sa party or wherever bigla na lang nili-link to me. Basta one day, I want to be the happiest wife and mother. Abangan nila ’yon. Grand finale!” Save the best for last, right Pchi?

### Awesome foursome

Rowell Santiago suddenly resigned as director of “Divas 4 Divas” which is slated on Dec. 6 at the Big Dome. This concert brings together Kuh Ledesma, Zsazsa Padilla, Pops Fernandez and Regine

Velasquez for the first time.

Insiders insist Rowell was having problems getting the four divas to rehearse together due to their tight schedules. But Kuh says Rowell told her his schedule just wouldn’t permit it.

Any chance they would upstage each other? “It’s not a competition,” Kuh emphasizes. “We have teamwork.”

### Another breakup

Paolo Contis and Isabel Oli have split up after three years of being together. I sent Pao a text message for the story behind the story but he hasn’t replied.

Perhaps he’s still licking his wounds. The last time I saw them together was at a party at Posh Nails Spa. They seemed to have such a soothing effect on each other.

Pao kept teasing Isabel about his half-naked pic on her phone’s screen. “Proud ka na sexy ang BF mo, no?”

Where has all the pride and love gone?

### Good ‘ninong’

Mark Herras refuses to be dragged into the Jennylyn Mercado-Patrick Garcia controversy. Mark’s reaction to Pat’s wanting to see his love child AJ, whom Jen is keeping away from him? “Sila bahala mag-usap. Labas ako sa mga problema nila. I’m just here to give Jen moral support and be a good ninong to AJ.”

When love is in question, friendship is the answer!

### Gimmick?

After watching Rihanna/Chris

Brown’s concert together, are Glaiza de Castro and Patrick Garcia the newest pair in “gimiklandia?” “He’s not courting me,” she clarifies. “We just hang out a lot.”

Hang on for the next chapter. Emotions subject to change until further notice.

### Valentine movie

Could it be true that there will be some changes in the story of Richard Gutierrez and KC Concepcion’s Valentine movie? Heard that the original plan was for Richard to portray a pilot with KC as one of the passengers on board. Then after the plane crashes, they get stranded in Palawan.

To make it realistic, they want to blow up a real plane but that would cost too much. And no airline would be crazy enough to agree on an ex-deal arrangement for that. But if KC and Chard’s hearts are in it, shouldn’t it be sky’s-the-limit?

### Christmas list

Carmina Villaroel is back in ABS-CBN for one movie. She plays Vilma Santos’ daughter in Star Cinema’s “A Mother’s Story.”

The mother in her will eagerly buy Christmas gifts for her kids. “They have a wish list so it’s easier for me,” says Mina. “Mavy wants a tennis racket and Lego. Casy likes anything with Skulls, Bratz and kikay stuff.” And what does she want? “Lots of shoes and a MacBook laptop.” Those are her Christmas MUSTS. What are yours?



# Maharlika – Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Immaturity

If we need more proof that professional stupidity is an occupational hazard of the office of a political spokesman, consider Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Anthony Golez's defense of his provocative remarks about political immaturity. Asked whether he thought the debilitating street protests in Bangkok would happen in Manila too, he had said no, "because our people have reached a high degree of political maturity whereby our people respect due process and the rule of law."

In other words, Thais, according to Golez, were politically immature. He did not say it outright; he did not need to. That's basic logic, something a medical doctor of Golez's quality and administrative ability would have easily followed. Indeed, you don't need to be a doctor to know that if p implies q, then not p implies not q.

Thailand's ambassador to the Philippines, Kulkumut Singhara Na Ayudhaya, drew the correct inference when he called a news conference to assail Golez's comment, and Sen. Richard Gordon's too, as unduly harsh and even unnecessarily interventionist.

But in response, Golez played dumb. "For the record, I did not say the Thais lack the political maturity," he said Thursday. "I said in my interview that the Filipinos have reached a high level of political maturity."

This defense is, at best, a half-truth.

Now is not the time to discuss the deeper meaning of the political upheaval in Thailand, or the significance of the Thai court's disenfranchisement of certain politicians or, indeed, whether the increasingly aggressive street demonstrations were only a series of experiments in unsettling but effective political immaturity. It is the right time, however, to ask what Golez and, by extension, the president he speaks for mean by the claim that Filipinos are more politically mature.

They mean they are relieved that a throng of outraged Filipinos is not rattling the iron gates of Malacañang. They mean they are happy the political challenges to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's legitimacy have been successfully coursed through the much more malleable House of Representatives. They mean they are grateful beyond words that the military remains firmly in their control and is reliably barracks-bound.

In other words, they mistake "political maturity" for public apathy. The reason President Arroyo remains in power, despite a worsening crisis of legitimacy, lies in the people's failure to demand more public accountability from her and her allies in Congress and the local governments. No doubt about it, public anger is real and metastasizing into a deep disgust. But the lack of a distinct alternative (as against one similar in most respects to the incumbent), the President's deft use of political and other forms of intimidation to discourage or depress public demonstrations and, above all, the Filipino's all-too-compliant spirit have allowed the Arroyo administration to survive into its eighth year.

Whatever is happening (or, more precisely, not happening), political maturity may be the last thing we can use to describe it.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

## The system

That picture said a thousand words. There was Jose de Venecia looking forlorn and downcast while Edcel Lagman, Luis Villafructe and company had their hands raised to assent to the killing of the impeachment bid. I remembered Don Corleone in "The Godfather" (in book and movie) looking at the bullet-ridden body of his son and crying bitterly, "Look how they massacred my boy." What an apt word, "massacre," despite the victim being only one. I remembered this, but I also remembered that for all his unsavory ways I pitied Don Corleone.

I don't know that I can say the same thing for Joe de V. He had little right to look tragic or hold back his tears while saying, "Look how they massacred my boy." The impeachment bid is not his boy. Until fairly recently, it was the unwanted child he kept turning away from his door, along with its mother—an apt image as well this December.

For those who do not like metaphors, that is to say that he was one of those who stabbed the impeachment bid on the back, and laughed while it lay bleeding on the ground. Hell, he was at the head of the pack. "The night of the hundred knives" is the title of the chapter in his biography that talks of his "assassination" as House speaker last year. In fact, that night took place well before it, when he and his lapdogs in Congress took their knives out and plunged it on the first impeachment bid.

You saw that look last week on Joe de V's face, heartfelt or pa-emote, and the only thing you want to say, as with Miriam Santiago when she lost her bid at the International Court of Justice presumably because of power politics: "Nakarma ka." Truly, you wonder what kind of karma awaits his former ward and current tormentor, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Joe de V now says he'll take to the streets and lead a protest there against the obscenity that is the murder of the innocent. What can one say? Good luck. Who knows? Maybe his family might follow him in the exercise, though even that seems doubtful.

None of this is to say we should not take to the streets and raise a howl over the obscenity that is the murder of the innocent. All of it is merely to say I personally would rather not see Joe de V there, other than as a member of the audience. I swear the next time I see him on the stage, where he makes it a point to be during the rallies to protest the NBN scam, I am going to boo him. There are limits to the demands of politeness. Or politeness works both ways: I expect him to show the same thing, and more—notably a profoundly contrite air—to a public he has deeply wronged.

Eduardo Ermita says we should exercise sobriety and not heed the calls for us to take to the streets to express our disgust. Due process has taken its course, let us give the system a chance.

## Collecting

Last Sunday, Nov. 30, while the auction of Southeast Asian art was ongoing in Christie's Hong Kong, I found myself in the Quezon City Sports Club for the quarterly auction of the Bayanihan Collector's Club.

I have never joined an auction, and the few times I was tempted to try my luck, I backed out, suspicious that the owner of the item would bid against me, bringing the price up and leaving me with the bag. I must be missing out on something here, but what bring me to these quarterly auctions are the bourse tables where many other things are on sale. It is during these pre-auction activities that you meet with other collectors, compare notes or exchange the latest gossip.

I was surprised to find one of my former students browsing through the table of the veteran collector, lawyer Jorge de los Santos, and asked the latter to give the young man a good discount to start him early. De los Santos is now semi-retired from collecting, but he infected his son Edward with the bug, and it is from the son that I purchase postcards of pre-war Philippines as well as interesting photographs.

My loot was meager. I got a photograph of Sergio Osmeña visiting a certain Mr. Rodriguez in the hospital. The man in bed looked ill, but he sat up for Osmeña, resulting in another photograph showing the same man dead. These were known as "recuerdos de patay" and if it were not bad feng shui to collect them, I would have an enviable collection by now.

The first "recuerdo de patay" I saw was in the prewar El Renacimiento that ironically was named after "rebirth" but specialized in photographs of the dead and dying. They were the original "ambulance chasers" and their reportage can be distressing.

For example, in 1911 they ran a whole issue on Teodora Alonso, Jose Rizal's mother, showing her from sickbed to coffin. Another issue had Emilio Jacinto on a bier carrying his rifle, while a row of sad faces mourned in the background.

My great bargain last Sunday was a paperweight made by the French silver company Christoffe depicting a palm with the various lines read by "manghuhula" [fortunetellers]. Jeweler Ramon Villegas looked over my shoulder as I haggled and argued that this hand was not sterling silver, but silver-plated. He then sneered, "Iregalo mo 'yan kay Madam Auring!" ["Give it as a gift to the fortuneteller Madam Auring!"]

But why would I do such a thing? I don't even know her. The palm now rests on my table—yet another distraction during deadlines.

Searching on the Internet that evening, I found out that the hand was unique and was never reproduced by Christoffe. It was not even for sale; rather it was given as a present in 1973 to their best and loyal customers. So what was this Christoffe hand doing in Manila? Who would have bought enough silverware to

If it were merely Joe de V who made that call, Ermita would not even have to make that appeal. But others, with far more credibility and an abiding sense of righteousness, have done so. Among them Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez and Antonio Tobias. "If there are no more legal means, then we resort to extralegal or extra-constitutional means," said Iñiguez. Both bishops wondered why we cannot mount the same scale of protests the Thais are currently doing to protest corruption and wrongdoing in government.

Alas, that is one of the monumental tragedies of the Philippines: Thailand learns from the Philippines while the Philippines does not learn from itself. The Thais came to the Philippines, studied at IRRI, and developed jasmine rice. We Filipinos hosted the IRRI, pioneered the green revolution, and now import rice from Thailand. The Thais saw People Power, were impressed by it, and now wield it to stop crooks from running government. We Filipinos invented People Power, ousted a couple of tyrants with it, and fell back into the pit of autocratic rule.

It's all very well to give the system a chance, if that system even remotely represents the voice of the people. Last week Mikey Arroyo had something to say that bears on this. He said that Joe de V's charges against his father had no ghost of a chance to stand up in court. That is absolutely true, for reasons that have nothing to do with lack of merit, or indeed proof. The impeachment against his mother had no ghost of a chance to stand up in Congress either, for reasons that have nothing to do with lack of substance, or indeed proof. They have to do only with the fact that his mother and father have the courts and Congress in their pockets.

I remember Marcos used to say then by way of a joke: "I'll let history be my judge. But just to be sure, I'll write it." He turned joke into reality, writing, or having university professors write that history with him as apotheosis of the evolution of the nation. Mikey's parents might as well say: "We'll let the courts be our judge. But just to be sure, we'll own the courts." They've turned that into reality as well, the Supreme Court itself ruling that the First Couple have the executive privilege to steal.

We're back to the Marcos years when everything is process but nothing is due. The only answer to that is People Power. That doesn't always have to take the form of a mass of people taking to the streets to bring down tyranny—and this one is a tyranny like no other—although I still think that remains a viable option. But it can take other forms, like taking to the virtual avenues of the Internet, mounting a signature campaign to recall GMA, and waging civil disobedience, especially refusing at least to declare taxes (since paying them is guaranteed by VAT). That is the only way we may take back what is ours, which is our right to govern ourselves.

It's all very well to give the system a chance, except for one thing:

Now and at the hour, GMA is the system.



### THERE'S THE RUB

By CONRADO DE QUIROS  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



### LOOKING BACK

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

be gifted with such a useless but beautiful thing?

The De los Santos asked me to stay for lunch and while there gamely answered questions like: What was the name of Admiral Montojo's flagship during the May 1898 Battle of Manila Bay? (Answer: Reina Cristina) What is the most impressive copy of the first edition "Noli me tangere" you have seen or handled? (Answer: The one inscribed to Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo by Rizal himself. It used to be in the collection of Alfonso T. Ongpin but was acquired and later presented to Ferdinand Marcos as a birthday present. It now rests in a glass case in the Malacañang Museum.) How much do you think this 19th-century book by Montero y Vidal should cost? (Answer: Not as much as the reserve price at the auction.) I felt like reminding people that I am not the replacement for the late Ernie Baron, yet it was a pleasant way to spend a Sunday morning.

I asked Attorney De los Santos what he first collected as a child. He said they were shiny coins from his mother's purse, sea shells on a trip to the beach, etc.

I tried to think when I became a collector. Like most children, I started with coins and postage stamps. I remember that long before Pepsi had a problem with 3-4-9 bottle caps, there was a promotion that required collecting all of Snow White's seven dwarves on the inside of used bottle caps and this was to be exchanged for a round-trip, all-expense-paid trip to Disneyland in California. I remember parents opening more Pepsi bottles than they could drink just to find "Sneezy." That

probably made a collector of me and everyone else of my generation.

Now that I sit and try to remember, it was the late E. Aguilar Cruz who infected me with the collecting virus. Books he gave away. Other trinkets he also gave away. But I remember that he sold me my first painting, a rather impressionistic-looking still life of peeled pomelos by the late Ibarra de la Rosa. I don't even know why I picked that out of his library floor, when there were other things to be had like pre-war landscapes, a 17th-century image of Michael the Archangel, a bust of Rizal by Guillermo Tolentino, etc.

At that time well over 25 years ago, collecting art or antiques was truly a hobby. It was affordable and there was a lot to choose from. Those were the days, best described by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan and Gilda Cordero when they maintained antique shops supplied from "walkers" and "runners" in Manila's Ermita district.

Today, collecting is a high-end game of one-upmanship: I have a bigger thing than yours. Sexual in a way, but then all the fun is gone.

Comments are welcome at [aocampo@ateneo.edu](mailto:aocampo@ateneo.edu).



# Samu't Sari



## HEALTH DATA REPORT

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, fourth from left, holds a copy of the 2008 Health Data Report while posing with the artists whose works are featured in the report and members of the report committee after a press briefing yesterday. From left are Roxanne Diaz, Dr. Sharma, Marconi Calindas, Villagomez, Jeanne Rayphand, Dr. Chaîne, Nhorleen Bitco, Edward Diaz and Wilbert Rospel.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



## SUSUPE PARK CLEANUP

Above, Tan Holdings Corp. senior vice president Eli Arago, second from left, is joined by Reliance Construction's Sandy Palon, Century Insurance president Dave Sablan, Saipan Grand Hotel GM Ed Cho, and Tan Holdings VP Ivan Quichocho.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

Left, Tan Holdings Corp. senior vice president Eli Arago helps paint the concrete barriers at the Susupe Beach Park during a cleanup held in November.

FERDIE DELA TORRE



## BUSINESS EXPANSION

Gold Ribbon Restaurant and Bakery owners, from left, president Nancy Mendoza, vice president Patricia Quinata, and secretary/treasurer Roxanne Diaz Aranda gather for a group photo inside the establishment located near Hopwood Junior High in Chalan Piao. Gold Ribbon recently expanded its space due to increasing number of customers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## BIG BROTHER HOUSEMATES

CNMI bowlers Ador Dimaano, Jorge Soladad, Percy Omechalang, and Ross Zapanta pose with ex-Pinoy Big Brother housemates Wendy Valdez and Bruce Quebral in Macau during a break in their stint in the 22nd Asian Inter City Bowling Championships.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Message of Appreciation

**JUAN WESLEY TORRES**

*May 22, 1952 - November 26, 2008*

No words can adequately express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far for the kind expression and support throughout our sorrow upon the loss of our dearest and loving husband, father, grandfather and brother.

Your thoughtfulness in expressing your sympathy and condolences have greatly helped us in bearing the sorrow and our loss. Your words of comfort have given us the strength and courage to endure our trying times.

### Special thanks to:

His excellency Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and clergies  
Cabrera funeral services & Kristo Rai choir  
Techa Doris S. Nuique  
CHC Doctors/ Chemotherapy Staff  
Saipan/Guam/ Hawaii Liason Office  
Guam Cancer Center Staff  
Dept. of Public Safety  
Saipan Mayor's Office  
Lt. Governor Timothy Villagomez  
James/ Maryann Reyes  
Speaker Arnold Palacios  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray S. Tenorio

To all who have helped us in one way or another, please be assured that you will always be remembered in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless Us All.  
Thank You and Si Yu'us Maase.

**Barbara A. Torres, Children, Granddaughter & Family**



## Youngstyle

# Giving girls a voice in history



Valerie Tripp, author of more than 50 "American Girl" books, was not quite prepared for seeing the adventures of her character Kit played out on the big screen of movie theaters. With "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" out on DVD next week, KidsPost caught up with Tripp, shown here at a Silver Spring, Md., bookstore, to talk to her about the movie and her writing.

By TRACY GRANT  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—As the author of more than 50 "American Girl" books,

Valerie Tripp knows a lot about bringing characters to life. But the Silver Spring, Md., writer was not quite prepared for seeing the adventures of her character Kit played out on the big screen of

movie theaters. With "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" out on DVD next week, KidsPost caught up with Tripp to talk to her about the movie, her writing and her favorite American Girl.

### 'American Girl' Author Fact

When "American Girl" author Valerie Tripp gets stuck on a writing project, she plays frisbee with her dog. "I'm happy to have my puppy to goof off with for a bit."

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

### Q. How did it feel to see your characters on screen?

A. It's a very strange experience. It's very unusual to hear words that you've heard in your head spoken and brought to life in motion, color and music on that giant screen.

Q. Kit Kittredge lives through the Great Depression. What lessons can kids today—given the uncertain economic times—learn from her?

A. Kit's story is very much my mother's story. ... Usually I just invent the characters, and their stories are shaped by the main problem of the time. In the case of Kit, I had been listening to my mother's stories for my whole childhood. Her father lost his job. To keep their house, my mother and her mother became cooks and maids and took in boarders. My mother had to move out of her room into the attic, which Kit did. But my mother found that the people who moved into her house ... changed and enriched her life in ways she had not foreseen. Sometimes something that appears to be a loss actually leads to a gain that you never would have had.

The absolutely crucial message of the Kit books is that ... the most

important thing that you have ... is your family. Though the circumstances of your life may change, that most important thing—the love of your family and friends—won't change. It may strengthen.

**Q. You write about girls who live during World War II (Molly), the American Revolution (Felicity), New Mexico during the 1800s (Josefina). Who is your favorite—or at least what's your favorite time in history?**

A. Whoever I'm writing about at the time! I get to live in that time and soak up the music, the fabric, the fashion of that time. Since I just finished a book about Ruthie, I'm very much into the period of the 1930s now. When you write, it allows you to have a personality that you wouldn't have. For example, Felicity is much braver than I would be. You can create your best self and send that self out into adventures.

### Q. What's the hardest part of writing?

A. When I go to schools to talk to kids I bring a manuscript that I have that is filled with big Xs through whole pages, things circled in red, Post-it notes sticking out. It's hard when you've worked on something that hard and you hear that (the publisher) isn't going to use it ... but writing requires a lot of patience. You wouldn't stop playing soccer because you get tired or thirsty. Sometimes the things that are hard for us give the most back to us. But that moment is still very hard.

## Why you feel tired after sleeping for hours

By VALERIE STRAUSS  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It happens to most kids at one time or another: You wake up in the morning facing a new day—only to yawn and wish you could go back to sleep.

Several things can cause you to feel tired, but there are things you can do to avoid it.

The amount of sleep you get each night is vital.

You may think eight hours sounds like enough, but it isn't. Experts say that kids ages 5 to 12 need about 10 to 11 hours of sleep every night.

Changes to your sleep schedule can also make you tired, and so can stress. Are you worried about a math test? That can affect how well you sleep. So can certain health issues. If your body is fighting a cold, it is going to require more sleep than when you are well.

Sleep may seem like a simple

process, but it isn't. A lot of stuff is going on in your body and brain when you are slumbering.

There are five stages to what is called a sleep cycle. The entire cycle generally lasts 90 to 120 minutes and repeats about five times during the night. The first four stages account for

about 75 percent of your night. During this period, your body goes from light to deep sleep.

Body functions such as blood pressure and body temperature drop. Muscles relax. The blood supply to your muscles increases and tissue growth and repair occurs. Hormones, such as those that help you grow, are released throughout your body. (You really do need to sleep to grow!)

Then in Stage 5, things change.

You go into what is called REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, meaning

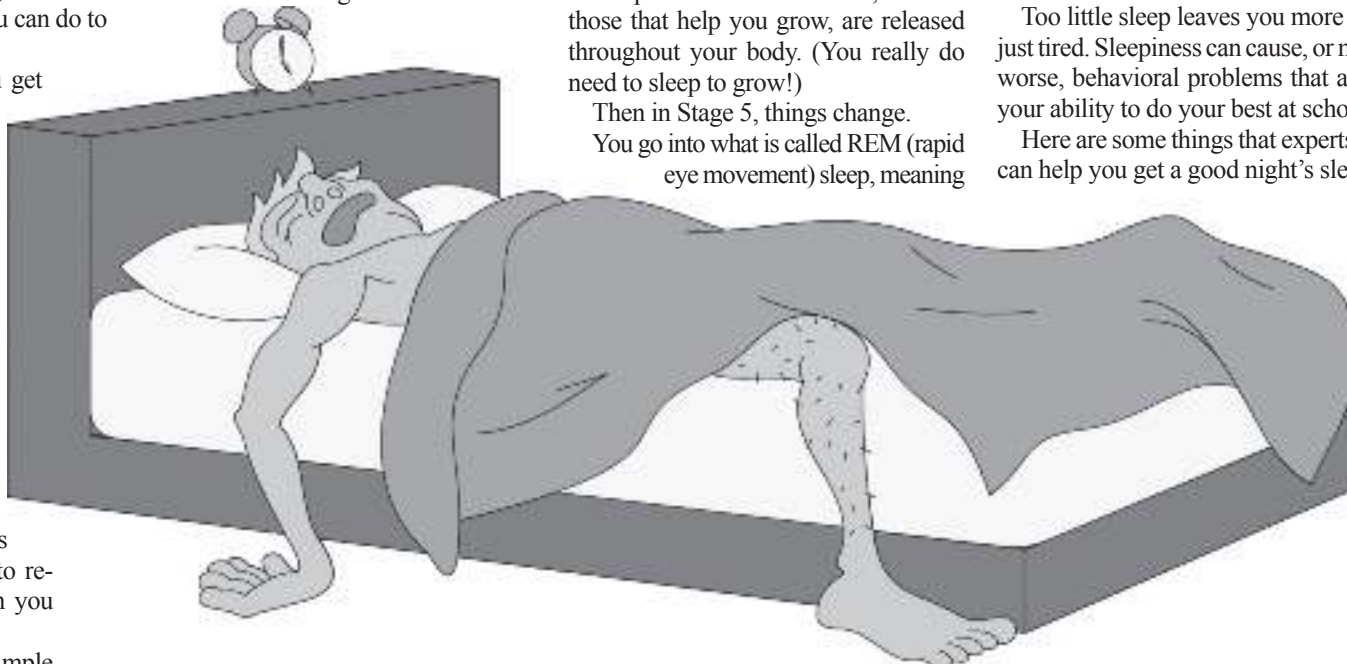
that your eyes dart back and forth. This is the time when your brain becomes active and most dreams occur. Your body becomes somewhat immobile.

Experts aren't sure why we dream, but they believe it is important in human development.

The National Sleep Foundation did a national survey a few years ago that found that many kids have sleep problems at least a few nights a week.

Too little sleep leaves you more than just tired. Sleepiness can cause, or make worse, behavioral problems that affect your ability to do your best at school.

Here are some things that experts say can help you get a good night's sleep.



## The Science of Sleep

Babies sleep about 16 hours a day. If you think that is a lot, consider this: Brown bats sleep almost 20 hours a day, giant armadillos clock in at 18.1 hours and pythons snooze for 18 hours.

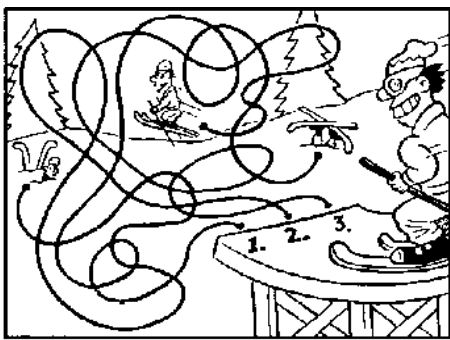
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

- Go to sleep at the same time each night.
- Keep your bedroom dark, cool and quiet at bedtime.
- Keep TVs and computers out of the bedroom.
- Limit drinks with caffeine, which can include some soda. Caffeine stimulates your central nervous system, making it hard to go to sleep.

So next time your parents tell you it is time to go to sleep, stop arguing! They're right!

Sources: [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com), [www.sleepfoundation.org](http://www.sleepfoundation.org), [www.umm.edu](http://www.umm.edu), [www.sleepdisorderchannel.com](http://www.sleepdisorderchannel.com), [www.sleepapnea.org](http://www.sleepapnea.org)

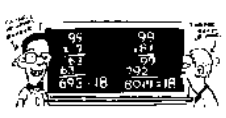




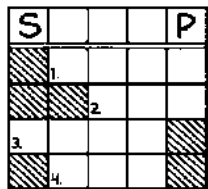
**THE POINT OF NO RETURN!** Can you determine the safest takeoff point at the end of this ski jump?

Answer: Point 3 will take you safely through the trees.

**AN INTERESTING MULTIPLICATION!**  
Did you know that if you multiply the number 99 by any number from 1 to 100, the digits in the resulting answer will always add up to 18? Grab a calculator and check it out.



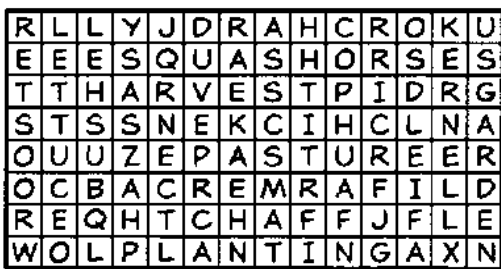
**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.  
1. A summer place for kids. 2. Needed for loud music.  
3. A swindle. 4. A curved wheel.



Answers: 1. Camp 2. Amp 3. Scam 4. Cam. Mystery word: Scampo.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

### DOWN ON THE FARM

Hidden in the above diagram are words that come to mind when you think about farms and farming. They can be found by reading up or down, side to side, or diagonally. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the items that you're looking for.

Acres	Harvest	Planting
Bushel	Horses	Plow
Chaff	Kerne	Rooster
Chickens	Lettuce	Squash
Farmer	Orchard	Thresher
Fields	Pasture	Tractor
Garden		

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author, humorist and storyteller Garrison Keillor who made the following observation: "They say such nice things about people at their funerals, that it makes me sad to realize I'm going to miss mine by just a few days."

■ According to a recent poll of pet owners, the most popular name in the United States for male dogs is Max; for female dogs, it's Maggie.

■ The murre, a bird found in the Arctic, actually dives into the water and swims to catch the small fish that comprise its diet. Interestingly, its eggs aren't like those of any other bird in the world: The egg "whites" are blue, and the yolks are bright-red.

■ Statistics show that only 1 in every 1,461 people is born on Feb. 29, the date that occurs only once every four years, in a leap year.

■ You might be surprised to learn that the kilt originated not in Scotland, but in France.

■ Did you know that Dalton, Ga., is the Carpet Capital of the World? I didn't think so. You no doubt were also unaware that Martinsville, Va., is the Sweat Shirt Capital of the World, and that Central City, Neb., is the Pump Irrigation Capital of the World.

■ Those who study such things claim that leeches have 32 brains.

■ The next time you get jury duty when you'd rather be doing other things, remember that the situation could be worse. One man in Liverpool, England, was discharged from a jury in 2003 because the other jurors in the case were complaining that his beard was infested with fleas.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Conscience is a dog that does not stop us from passing, but that we cannot prevent from barking."—Nicolas de Chamfort

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## MAGIC MAZE • HEDGEHOGS

Y G D A X V S P N K A I D F H  
C A X V S Q O L S J F S N H I  
E C A X V N O C T U R N A I B  
T R P P N L J H C F I E L D E  
B A S U Y X V B E T C D A R R  
P O I M S M K U S I A R E G N  
E D B S R L R R N Z X A Z W A  
U T T R A O L R I Q O G W N T  
L E J C P S W O R E G D E H E  
P I O E G F D W R S P I N E S  
C V A T U O N S E K I L G I P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Africa	Gardens	Nocturnal	Spines
Asia	Hedgehogs	Pets	Vocal
Burrows	Insects	Piglike snout	Worms
Europe	New Zealand	Rolls up	

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

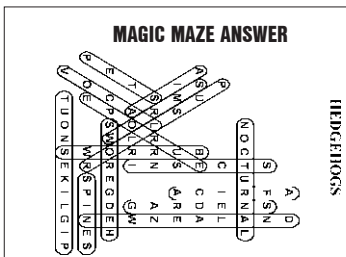
**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	X		+		13
+		-		+	
	X		-		23
÷		X		+	
	X		÷		9
3		18		17	

1 2 3 4 6 6 7 8 9

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HEDGEHOGS

### GO FIGURE ANSWER

17	18	3
6	9	8
23	4	8
9	1	1
13	7	1

## Pineapple cures potty-mouth dog

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I was at a friend's house when I read your column about the "potty-mouth dog" (a dog that liked to eat his own and other animals' droppings). My dog "Sandy" used to have this disgusting habit too, but I cured her of it. I placed a piece of pineapple in the droppings. (I used canned, chunk pineapple and cut it into even smaller pieces.) I don't know why this worked, but it did. After a few days of eating pineapple-laced poo, Sandy wanted nothing more to do with droppings. Hope this tip helps, and happy "clean mouth" to that dog! —Bill O., Sullivan, Ill.



solution designed to make the stool taste terrible to the dog.

Training the dog to "go" in a designated area, in addition to standard obedience training, is another method to deter stool eating. Picking up waste immediately after the dog "goes" is another solution. But it's likely that most dog owners will need to use a combination of techniques to limit or stop the habit.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to [pawscorner@hotmail.com](mailto:pawscorner@hotmail.com).

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## Simply homemade batik gifts

Introduce your family to a 2,000-year-old craft known as "batik." Originally practiced in Central and Southeast Asia as well as Japan and Africa, it is an art tradition that continues in popularity, particularly on the island of Java in Indonesia. Batik designs are commonly seen on clothing, tablecloths and wall hangings in vibrant colors. Applying hot wax to the fabric in places that are not to be dyed creates designs. Here's a way to get the "look" without the hot wax. All you need is to whip up a simple mixture of flour and water. Even the preschoolers in your household can experience this ancient art to create eye-catching table runners or wall hangings.

Simply mix together 1/2 cup all-purpose white flour with 1/2 cup water. Stir until smooth. Pour into a clean plastic squeeze bottle with a nozzle, like an empty honey-bear container.

Squeeze out the mixture onto white or plain-colored fabric, making designs, patterns or shapes. Leave undisturbed overnight. When dry, brush nontoxic fabric paint over the designs, making sure you paint between the hardened dough lines. Use a variety of contrasting colors, if you wish.

If painting a T-shirt, be sure it's pre-washed. Place a sheet of cardboard between layers so that the mixture and paint do not soak through.

When the paint is dry, pick off



the hardened flour mixture with your fingernails or a table knife to reveal your hidden masterpiece. If some of the flour mixture is difficult to remove by picking, run the fabric under warm water and continue to pick it off.

Heat-set the paint with an iron according to instructions on the bottle. If you are making a table runner or wall hanging, carefully roll it up with tissue

paper and tie loosely with a ribbon. Attach a holiday gift tag with the name of the person receiving the gift on one side and "Handmade by" and the name of your child printed on the other side.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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# Life & Style

## New JK Rowling book goes on sale around the world

**EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)**—The latest magical tome by J.K. Rowling has started to fly off book-store shelves.

Rowling launched “The Tales of Beedle the Bard” on Thursday with a tea party for 200 school children at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, where she lives.

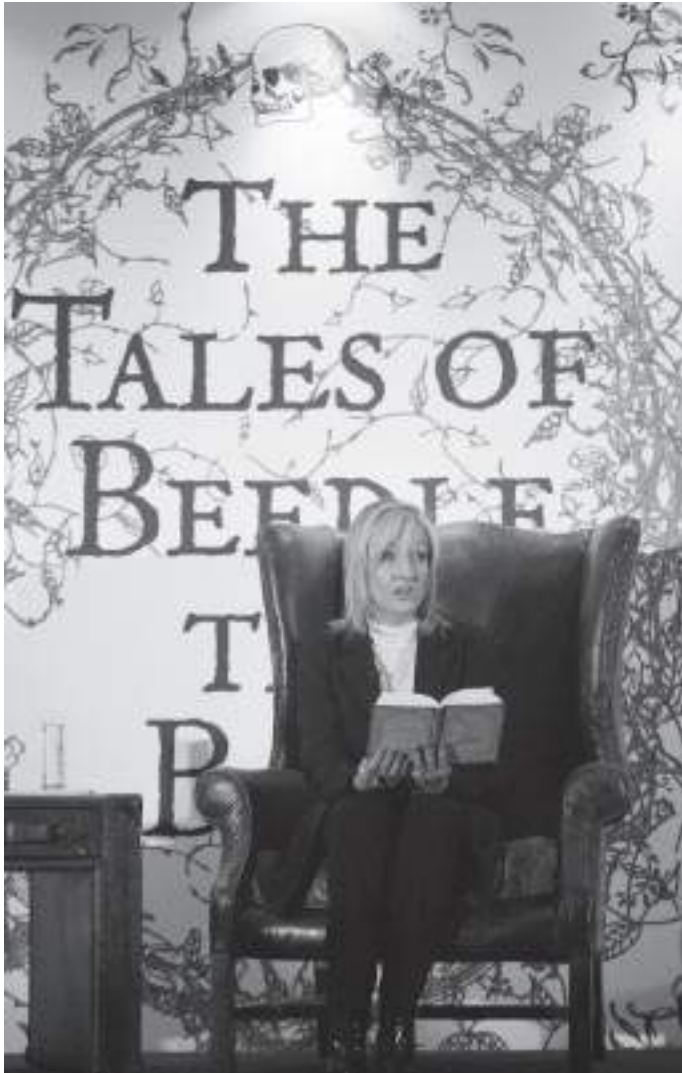
The author is donating royalties from the book to a charity, which hopes it will raise millions to help vulnerable children.

Recession-hit booksellers hope the book—a collection of five fables mentioned in Rowling’s saga about boy wizard Harry Potter—will give them a festive boost.

“We expect it to come straight in at No. 1 and is very likely to be our No. 1 book this Christmas,” said Jon Howells of Britain’s Waterstone’s book store chain. “It’s in with a fighting chance of being the best-selling book of the year, even though there are only a few weeks to go.”

“This is J.K. Rowling. None of the usual rules apply,” he said. “Beedle the Bard” is being published Thursday in more than 20 countries, with a global print run of almost 8 million. But is generating only a fraction of the fanfare that greeted the Potter novels.

Rowling is donating her royalties to the Children’s High Level Group, a charity she co-founded to support institutionalized children in Eastern Europe.



Author JK Rowling reads to around 200 schoolchildren at a tea party in the Parliament Hall Edinburgh Thursday Dec. 4, 2008, where she read passages from her new book “The Tales of Beedle the Bard.”

The book is published on behalf of the charity by Harry Potter’s traditional publishers—Scholastic in North America and

Bloomsbury elsewhere.

Rowling, whose Harry Potter books have sold more than 400 million copies and been trans-

lated into 67 languages, wrote the Beedle tales after finishing “Deathly Hallows” last year.

One of the stories, “The Tale Of The Three Brothers,” is recounted in “Deathly Hallows,” in which the storybook helps Harry and his friends defeat evil Lord Voldemort.

Rowling has described “The Tales of Beedle the Bard” as a distillation of the themes found in the Harry Potter books, calling it her goodbye to a world she lived in for 17 years.

The book was initially produced last year in an edition of seven handwritten copies. Six were given away by Rowling as gifts, and one was bought by Internet retailer Amazon at an auction for almost 2 million pounds (\$3 million).

Rowling told the schoolchildren at the launch that she published the book after complaints from readers over the sale.

“There was quite a lot of high feeling from Harry Potter fans that only someone who had 2 million pounds could afford to read the book,” she said. “I thought: ‘fair point,’ so I thought I’ll publish it and then the charity can have that money too.”

Rowling read a passage from the tales to her young audience, which was given free copies of book.

Amazon is printing 100,000 copies of a leather-bound collectors’ edition priced at 50 pounds, or \$100 in the United States.

## Carrey, Thurman, Ryder, Kutcher join Sundance

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Top Hollywood stars are going the indie route at next month’s Sundance Film Festival, whose lineup features Jim Carrey, Ewan McGregor, Winona Ryder, Richard Gere, Uma Thurman and Ashton Kutcher.

Carrey and McGregor star in the con-artist tale “I Love You Phillip Morris,” one of the star-studded premieres announced Thursday for the independent-film showcase that runs Jan. 15-25 in Park City, Utah.

Also on the schedule: Ryder and Billy Bob Thornton in the drama “The Informers”; Gere, Ethan Hawke and Don Cheadle in the cop saga “Brooklyn’s Finest”; Thurman and Minnie Driver in the family tale “Motherhood”; and Kutcher and Anne Heche in the gigolo story “Spread.”

“I think it’s the best premiere section we’ve had in the festival in years,” said festival director Geoffrey Gilmore.

The general quality is higher this time partly because Sundance organizers pared back on the number of films in the premiere section to open up more screening time for movies competing in the festival’s competitions, Gilmore said. Premiere films do not compete for prizes.

Other premieres include “Adventureland,” a 1980s tale set at an amusement park and featuring Ryan Reynolds and “Twilight” star Kristen Stewart;

“Shrink,” with Kevin Spacey and Robin Williams in the story of a celebrity psychiatrist in crisis; the South African apartheid thriller “Endgame,” with William Hurt and Chiwetel Ejiofor; and the time-shifting romance “500 Days of Summer,” starring Zooey Deschanel and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

The festival’s opening-night film is the clay-animation feature “Mary and Max,” with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Toni Collette providing lead voices in the story of two pen pals, a lonesome 8-year-old Australian girl and a 40-something obese man in New York City.

Sundance’s closing film is the documentary “Earth Days,” a portrait of nine people at the heart of the environmental movement’s origins.

Along with the high-profile premieres, Sundance announced films in several other categories Thursday, including “Helen,” with Ashley Judd as a psychiatrist battling depression; “World’s Greatest Dad,” a comedy with Robin Williams; and “Why We Laugh: Black Comedians on Black Comedy,” a documentary featuring Chris Rock, Bill Cosby and Keenen Ivory Wayans.

The 64 films in Sundance’s four feature-film competitions for U.S. and world drama and documentary were announced Wednesday.

## ‘Slumdog’ is 2008’s best film

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The National Board of Review has picked “Slumdog Millionaire” as the year’s best film.

The board’s picks, announced Thursday, are considered the first major harbinger of the Academy Awards. The win boosts the awards hopes for “Slumdog,” which is viewed as the independent film most likely to follow “Juno” and “Little Miss Sunshine” in Oscar contention.

Directed by Danny Boyle, the film follows the reflections of a poor boy (Dev Patel) from the slums of Mumbai, India, who ends up on the country’s version of “Who Wants To Be a Millionaire.” Patel was also chosen for best breakthrough performance by an actor.

“Slumdog Millionaire” also won best film at the British Independent Film Awards. With a cast of largely local talent, it was shot in Mumbai, which last week suffered a bloody terrorist attack. “We are thrilled that we can hopefully bring some positive light to what has happened over there by honoring this film,” said NBR President Annie Schulhof.

In an earlier interview, Boyle was grateful for awards attention considering the difficulty many independent films are experiencing.

“It’s fantastic for us to have had this kind of platform,” said the director, whose previous films include “Train-spotting” and “28 Days Later.” “It gets

journalists all perked up. It works in so many different ways. It’s an amazing vehicle for this kind of film.”

Awards were generally spread around to a number of films.

Clint Eastwood was selected as best actor for his performance in the not-yet-released “Gran Torino.” Best actress went to Anne Hathaway for “Rachel Getting Married.”

David Fincher won best director for “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.” Best adapted screenplay was shared by Eric Roth for “Benjamin Button” and Simon Beaufoy for “Slumdog.” “Gran Torino” screenwriter, Nick Schenk, won for original script.

Josh Brolin took best supporting actor for his role in “Milk,” and Penelope Cruz won for her supporting performance in Woody Allen’s “Vicky Cristina Barcelona.”

The cast of “Doubt”—headlined by Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman—won for ensemble. Viola Davis, also from “Doubt,” won for breakthrough performance by an actress.

“Man on Wire” won for best documentary, “WALL-E” for animated feature and “Mongol” for foreign-language film.

The National Board of Review, which is composed of film historians, students and educators, was founded in 1909. The awards will be handed out Jan. 14 in a New York gala hosted by Whoopi Goldberg.

## Oscar ‘Knight’? Batman rises to serious contender

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—As the box-office bankroll climbed for “The Dark Knight” last summer, the Hollywood consensus was that a posthumous nomination for Heath Ledger was the Batman blockbuster’s best Academy Awards hope. Now that critics have gotten a peek at all the last-minute Oscar contenders, “The Dark Knight” has emerged as a solid contender for best picture and best director for Christopher Nolan.

Web sites such as TheEnvelope.com and Awardsdaily.com rank Nolan and Ledger among key Oscar contenders and list “The Dark Knight” alongside best-picture possibilities such as Ron Howard’s “Frost/Nixon,” Gus Van Sant’s “Milk” and David Fincher’s “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.”

“Far be it for me to try and predict, and I think that anybody looks like a (jerk) if you really try to predict what people are going to vote for. But certainly, for me, I think that the serious contenders in this movie in my mind are Heath, Chris for director because he’s done an extraordinary job, and I do believe best picture, as well,” “Dark Knight” star Christian Bale said Wednesday night at a cocktail reception for the filmmakers and critics. It’s unusual for an action flick to climb into the company of Hollywood’s year-end prestige pictures,



In this file image originally released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger starring as The Joker, is shown in a scene with Christian Bale, starring as Batman in “The Dark Knight.”

with Oscar voters tending toward highbrow literary works rather than comic-book adaptations. Among the action films that made the best-picture cut at the Oscars were the three “Lord of the Rings” movies and “Raiders of the Lost Ark.”

But building on the critical and commercial success of 2005’s “Batman Begins,” the sequel elevated the superhero genre to a new high, with critics ranking “The Dark Knight” as one of the year’s best films.

“It is a genre movie, but I think it goes beyond it with the themes in this movie,” said “Dark Knight” co-star Aaron Eckhart. “It’s an important movie sociologically. I feel like in this day and age, with terrorism and with the cancers of the city and people trying to find a voice within their own city, this is an important film. “But it’s a Batman film, so it has that going for it. It has that going against it.”

With about \$1 billion in worldwide theatrical grosses, “The Dark Knight” arrives on home video Tuesday, two days before the Golden Globe nominations, where the movie could gain some Oscar momentum if it scores well there.

Ledger, who died in January of an accidental prescription drug overdose, is considered a likely supporting-actor nominee for his diabolical performance as Batman nemesis the Joker. Oscar nominations come out Jan. 22, the one-year anniversary of Ledger’s death.

“I’d like to think he would be very quietly proud of the fact that people really responded to it in the way he’d intended, were moved by the performance,” Nolan said. “As far as Heath goes, any and every validation of the success of his performance is a great source of pride to me and relief to me that I’ve done my end of getting his performance out there.”



# Dixie Chicks singer sued for defamation

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)**—Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines is the target of a defamation lawsuit by the stepfather of one of three 8-year-old boys slain in 1993.

Maines spoke out for three people convicted of the slayings and alleged the stepfather was instead involved in the killings.

Terry Hobbs, stepfather of Steve Branch, who was killed in 1993 with Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, filed suit in Pulaski County Circuit Court on Nov. 25. The suit names all three members of the Dixie Chicks, but focuses on Maines.

The suit seeks compensatory and punitive damages. Hobbs claims he suffered loss of income, injury to his reputation and emotional distress.

Maines attended a Dec. 19 rally in Little Rock, where she claimed Jason Baldwin, Damien Echols and Jessie Misskelley—known to sympathizers as the “West Memphis Three”—were innocent and that supposed new evidence pointed to Hobbs. Her comments echoed a Nov. 26,



In this Dec. 19, 2007 file photo Dixie Chicks lead singer Natalie Maines attends a rally in support of three Arkansas prison inmates in Little Rock, Ark.

2007, letter that was still on the Dixie Chicks' Web site on

Thursday, in which she claimed that new DNA testing of hair

from the crime scene linked Hobbs to the killings and that his behavior after the slayings indicated his guilt.

The lawsuit says the claim is false.

Hobbs told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in a Feb. 1 interview that his reputation was in tatters and he wanted to clear his name.

“I want people to know I haven't done nothing wrong,” Hobbs said. “I want them to hear it from me.”

No lawyer for Maines was listed in court filings and a publicist didn't immediately return a call for comment. Hobbs' attorney, J. Cody Hiland, didn't immediately return a call for comment Thursday.

The lawsuit says Maines' statements were “so extreme in degree as to be beyond the pale of decency and to be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in civilized society.”

Assertions similar to those made by Maines were also made by lawyers seeking new trials for the three convicts.

# ‘Frost/Nixon’ director Howard voted for Nixon

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—For all the disclosures former President Richard Nixon makes in “Frost/Nixon,” director Ron Howard has one of his own.

Howard says he voted for Nixon in 1972.

“Yeah I did,” Howard said at a discussion following a Hollywood screening late last month. “You see now, that was a long time ago.”

Five years later, Nixon granted English journalist David Frost the famous four-part interviews upon which the film is based.

Howard supported Demo-

crat Barack Obama in the 2008 election with a viral video in which he said, among other things, that he'd voted for both parties in the past.

Howard said his draft number was 41, meaning he was close to being shipped off to the Vietnam War. Both Nixon and Democratic nominee George McGovern said at the time they would pull out of Vietnam, Howard recalled.

Nixon won re-election in a landslide.

Five years later, he admitted to English journalist Frost that

he may have broken the law in the 1972 break-in of Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex and subsequent cover-up.

Howard, 54, recalls watching the interviews on TV and explained his earlier vote may have helped him have sympathy for Nixon.

“I went into the interviews not as a Nixon hater, but having felt wounded by Watergate and betrayed as an American,” he said. The interviews “were very cathartic to me.”

In another admission,

screenwriter Peter Morgan told the same screening audience that Nixon's fictionalized high-tension phone call to Frost one night between interview sessions did not actually happen, but was plausible because Nixon mixed alcohol with mood stabilizers.

“We know he made late night phone calls. He didn't remember them,” Morgan said, adding “I had what I felt got to the heart of Richard Nixon” including a tendency to “destroy himself.”

“Frost/Nixon,” a Universal Pictures release, hits theaters Friday.

# Sister is sick to death of brother's gift of life

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** Three years ago, my brother, “Frank,” donated a kidney to me. Of course I'm grateful and have told him so many times.

The problem? Frank talks about it every time I see him. If we attend a funeral, he will say that the person in the coffin would have been me if not for him. He will tell complete strangers in a store, “Ask her what I gave her!” He even took me to a school reunion picnic so he could show his former teachers what a wonderful person he is.

I'm glad I received the kidney. It has added quality to my life. But how can I let my brother know that while I am appreciative, I am also really tired of hearing him remind me every day?

GRATEFUL SISTER IN KENTUCKY

**DEAR SISTER:** You may not be able to. Your brother is proud of the fact that he was able to help you. However, if he was truly convinced that he is a good person, he wouldn't feel the need to constantly point it out to strangers, acquaintances and to you.

Tempting as it may be, resist the urge to tell him you're tiring of carrying the burden of gratitude. Continue to reinforce what a good brother he was for literally giving you the gift of self, and return the favor by continuing to pump up his fragile ego. It's a fair exchange.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a busy, full-time doctoral student and live in a large apartment complex where there are only four washing machines for tenants to use.

The last time I went to do laundry, three of the washers were filled with wet clothes. I waited a half-hour and no one came to claim the clothes, so I took the items out and put them in dryers so I could start my own loads. (I didn't have any more time to wait and three loads to do.)

Was it reasonable of me to move someone else's clothes?

ON A SCHEDULE, AZUSA, CALIF.

**DEAR ON A SCHEDULE:** Rather than putting the clothes into the dryers where they would take up space, you should have placed the items on top of the dryer or on a folding table where they would be easily seen by the person who left them in the washer.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have been together for nine years, married for five. I know without a doubt that he loves me very much and would never do anything to harm our relationship, but I can't get over the fact that he has called me by his first wife's name several times. It makes me feel sad and angry when it happens.

He says he means no harm by it and points out that it has happened with other names, too, which is true. He always apologizes, but that doesn't help. Do you think he is still thinking about her after all these years, or is it an honest mistake?

WIFE NO. 2 IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR WIFE NO. 2:** It's an honest mistake, and if you are smart you won't make a big deal about it or brood over it—particularly because it has happened with other names, too. The best way to handle it is to turn it into a joke and let it go. It is in no way a reflection on you or an indication that your marriage is threatened. In fact, this kind of lapse is very common.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Jennifer Hudson says she's honored by Grammy nods

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jennifer Hudson says she's honored to be a Grammy nominee. The Oscar-winning actress and singer, who has been in seclusion since the killings of her mother, brother and nephew, was nominated Wednesday for four Grammy awards for her self-titled debut album. Says Hudson: “It's been a childhood dream of mine to release an album, so to receive four Grammy nominations is truly a blessing. I am extremely honored and humbled by the nominations.” The nominations came a day after her estranged brother-in-law, William Balfour, was formally charged with murder in the killings of Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson; her brother, Jason Hudson; and her 7-year-old nephew, Julian King.

### Benedict, actor in ‘The Jeffersons,’ dies at 70

**BOSTON (AP)**—Paul Benedict, the actor who played the English neighbor Harry Bentley on the sitcom “The Jeffersons,”

has died. He was 70. Benedict was found dead Monday on Martha's Vineyard and his brother, Charles, said authorities were still investigating the cause of death. Benedict began his acting career in the 1960s in the Theatre Company of Boston, alongside such future stars as Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino. Benedict went on to appear in a number of movies, including a role as the oddball director in “The Goodbye Girl” with Richard Dreyfuss. But he was mainly known for his role as Bentley in “The Jeffersons,” which ran on CBS from 1975 to '85.

### Don Cornelius enters not guilty plea

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Former “Soul Train” host Don Cornelius has pleaded not guilty to spousal battery charges. Court records show Cornelius entered the plea to five misdemeanor counts through his attorney Thursday. The 72-year-old producer was arrested in October after police responded to a domestic dispute call at his Hollywood Hills home. He was

charged last month with spousal battery, assault with a deadly weapon and dissuading a witness from making a police report. The records indicate Cornelius was not in court Thursday, but was ordered to appear for a January pretrial hearing

### Ex-CHiPs' star Estrada to patrol with Ind. police

**MUNCIE, Ind. (AP)**—Erik Estrada has returned to Muncie to take part in overnight police patrols in the city where he starred in the short-lived reality series “Armed & Famous.” The former star of the 1970s motorcycle cop drama “CHiPs” is a reserve officer on the Muncie Police Department. The 60-year-old actor plans to work the midnight shift for three nights this week, patrolling city streets from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. He took target practice at the police gun range on Wednesday. On Saturday, he plans to help officers at a charity event. Estrada filmed “Armed & Famous” for CBS in Muncie in the winter of 2006-07. He and several other celebrities patrolled the city as re-

serve officers. He also returned to Muncie last winter to keep up his reserve officer status.

### Police seek 2 in shooting of Ruffalo's brother

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)**—Police are seeking two people they want to question about the shooting of actor Mark Ruffalo's brother. The Beverly Hills Police Department identified two people as “persons of interest” Thursday afternoon. Police said in a news release they want to question the pair, Brian Scofield and Shaha Mishal Adham, as part of an attempted murder investigation. Beverly Hills police refused to release any additional information about the pair, including their ages, recent residences or other identifying details. They also did not release an update on Scott Ruffalo's condition. A publicist for Mark Ruffalo confirmed on Wednesday that the actor's 39-year-old brother was clinging to life after being shot in the head early Monday. The actor's spokeswoman had no comment on the information released by police.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



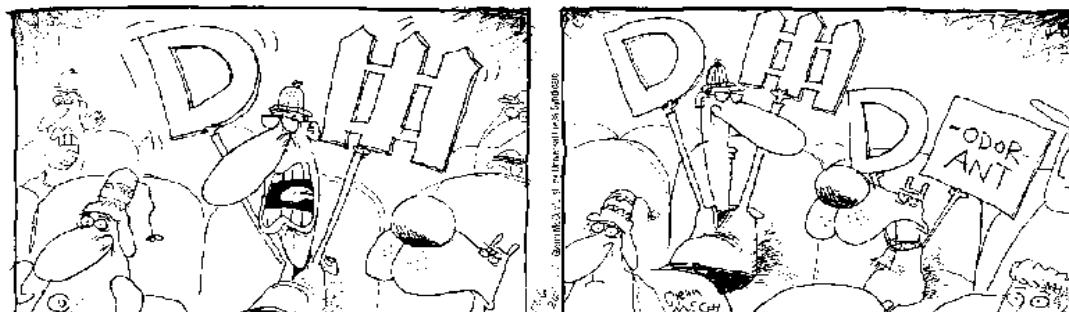
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Moon-related

6 Graceful beauties

11 Title for una mujer

12 Kitchen lures

14 For-mosa's other name

15 Cravat holder

16 Type measures

17 Copper-field field

19 Actress MacGraw

20 Await ominously

22 Pirouette pivot

23 Contrive

24 May Wong and Maria Alberghetti

26 Fishermen

28 Army rank (abbr.)

30 Ball prop

31 Tranquilizes

35 Igneous rock source

**DOWN**

39 From the top

40 Skilled

42 Decorate

43 Sub-machine gun

44 Exhaust

46 Mound

47 Kajillionaire

49 Princeton team

51 Come out

52 Grassy plains

53 Flubbed

54 Organic compound

2 Together-ness

3 Promotly

4 Composer

5 Attacked

6 Guest stat

7 McCormack of "Will & Grace"

8 Shad

9 Pierce

10 Tar

11 Commemorative pillar

13 Fits of peevishness

18 State of India

21 Showy parrot

23 Accordion feature

25 Drunkard

27 Prized possession

29 Memorized

31 Fry lightly

32 What "-ase" may signify

33 Windshield scraper, e.g.

34 Masseuse's workplace

36 "Bonanza" star

37 Wicked Queen's "adviser"

38 Accumulate

41 Name

44 Venetian bigwig

45 Many soccer scores

48 Hockey legend

50 Roscoe

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

C	A	W	F	D	Y	A	M	B	F	G
A	G	A	P	E	A	L	E	E	M	U
P	O	L	E	R	W	A	L	A	C	E
L	F	M	A	N	S	F	K	F	S	
M	A	O	A	B	E	A	S	S	E	T
A	L	P	S	O	R	A	L	S		
R	A	S	P	E	D	F	L	O	W	E
R	E	T	R	O	P	C	W	L	E	D
A	R	I	A	G	E	R	F	A	T	
W	A	L	L	O	O	N	A	B	A	T
E	S	T	R	I	D	R	U	B	I	N
R	F	S	F	I	S	S	T	Y	I	E

**Yesterday's answer 12-6**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Lindsay Price, 32; Janine Turner, 46; Peter Buck, 52; Tom Hulse, 55

**Happy Birthday:** Sensitive issues will arise and, the sooner you deal with them, the better. Recognize what will and what won't work for you. Put you and yours first and distance yourself from the sinking ships around you. Position yourself strategically. You are only as strong as the weakest link, so act accordingly. Your numbers are 11, 14, 23, 28, 31, 38, 46

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Secret information can lead to trouble, especially if revealed to the wrong person. Emotions will be heightened and talks can lead to a lack of understanding. Your best recourse will be to get the facts and stick to them. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You can make quick choices but not if they are costly. Keep your wallet tucked away and you won't feel guilty or worried later on. You don't have to spend to buy love or impress others. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Taking on a lot isn't a bad thing but it can end up ruining a partnership that you aren't ready to let go of. Be careful what you offer others and what you accept in return. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Unexpected good fortune appears to be heading your way. Keep an open mind and you can take advantage of an ideal situation, even if you don't see it as such immediately. Acceptance will be the key. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Impulse purchases or overindulging will set you back and leave you scrambling to make up what you lost. Now is not the time to take a risk when you should be stabilizing your situation financially and personally. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You can't sit idle, waiting to see what everyone else is going to do. This is not the time to procrastinate when there is so much at stake. Satisfy your emotional, personal and professional state of mind by making the right choices for yourself. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Put all differences aside and enjoy friends, family and socializing. Don't sit out because someone doesn't want to share an experience with you. Trouble with a loved one may escalate but it may be what's needed to get things out in the open. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** It's how much you know that will help you beat any competition you face. Rely on a loved one for backup and you will form a closer relationship. Do something out of the ordinary and surprise someone you are trying to impress. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Separate your emotions from what has to be done. If you let anything interfere with your plans, you will lose financially. An unexpected change will leave you speechless. Be first to make a move, not the one wondering what to do next. \*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Go the extra mile for someone you love. An unusual approach to something that has

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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been bothering you will finally bring you some success. You can position yourself well for the future with a slight change to an important paper in your portfolio. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Try to be consistent. If you change your mind too much, someone will get frustrated and start making decisions for you. Trust in your own ability to pick and choose what's best for you. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Your emotional instability will lead to costly mistakes. Before you decide to drop cash on someone you are trying to impress, evaluate your motives. There is still too much that needs to be revealed before you move forward. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are emotional, sensitive and in tune with others. You fight for justice and fair play. You are strict in your beliefs and are an activist.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5	4		6			1		
				3					
7		1			9		6		
	7	2							
				8					
	3		4		1		5		
9			8			6	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	6	5	1	2	9	7	3
3	5	1	7	9	4	8	2	6
9	7	2	8	6	3	1	4	5
1	4	9	6	2	7	5	3	8
2	3	5	9	8	1	7	6	4
7	6	8	3	4	5	2	9	1
8	2	7	1	3	6	4	5	9
5	9	3	4	7	8	6	1	2
6	1	4	2	5	9	3	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/06

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PAUL NEWMAN (1925-2008)

Solution: 7 letters

T S P D N A H S C G D I R B S  
F F A R H U A R O T A R R A N  
K Z R L O F R I G G C O L O R  
C L I R S X R S T L A A B A T  
O O S R A A Y R E D D I E M E  
P O L S P C O V W D R I V E R  
C C U Y L P E A R D S R A R E  
E W K L T L Y E N O M U D I S  
C T E S A I S C O T T H S C A  
S N E N E S R C T S Y T R A E  
D W D T I I S A L R D R O N N  
R L T N N W K I H A N A N A W  
A I G M I I F C I C I A I V O  
W S A U C E U E A E O R L Y T  
A N O S R E P Q R J M S E Y E

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12/6

American, Arthur, Awards, Bird, Bridges, Broadway, Cars, CEO, Charity, Claire, Cleveland, Color, Cool, Dave, Driver, E. Nor, Eyes, Film, Frigg, Hand, Harry, Incy, Jackie, Joanne, Luke, Melissa, Money, Narrator, Navy, Nell, Paris, Persona, Rocket, Prize Proxy, Quindl, Salad, Dressings, Salsa, Sauce, Scott, Susan, Teresa, Torrance, Town, Westport, Woe, Write WJSA

Yesterday's Answer: Chewy

For more information, visit [www.wonderword.com](http://www.wonderword.com). The puzzle is a registered trademark of Universal Press Syndicate. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission from Universal Press Syndicate.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# 235- NEWS



# LT, Rivers lead Chargers to win over Raiders



**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—LaDainian Tomlinson can still run the ball and his San Diego Chargers finally looked like world-beaters.

It might not matter, though, because the Chargers still need a miracle to get to the playoffs.

Tomlinson scored on a 3-yard run against his favorite punching bag and

Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes, including a 59-yarder to Vincent Jackson, to give the Chargers a 34-7 victory against the Oakland Raiders on Thursday night.

The Chargers beat their archrivals for the 11th straight time in a series dating to the birth of the AFL in 1960.

The Chargers (5-8) snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just

the second time in seven games. Once considered favorites to reach the Super Bowl, they're still in deep trouble, trailing Denver by 2 1/2 games in the AFC West. The Broncos have four to play.

"It was desperately needed but it was one win for us," Tomlinson said. "We don't want to make it more than what it is."

On Sunday, Tomlinson was held to

24 yards, the second-lowest total of his brilliant eight-year career, in a listless 22-16 home loss to Atlanta.

"After the showing last week, I think we wanted to prove to everyone that that wasn't us," said Tomlinson, who's having the worst season of his career. "It's good that it was a short week. We got to show people who we are as a group."

San Diego's Darren Sproles caught two TD passes. His 87-yard touchdown on a punt return in the fourth quarter was called back after rookie Antoine Cason was called for an illegal block in the back.

Oakland quarterback JaMarcus Russell was intercepted twice by linebacker Stephen Cooper and also lost a fumble, leading to 17 points for the Chargers. Russell sprained his right ankle after his second pickoff and didn't return. X-rays were negative, and Russell left the locker room on crutches.

Andrew Walter replaced Russell at the start of the third quarter. Walter was intercepted by Matt Wilhelm late in the fourth quarter.

The Raiders (3-10) reached double digit losses for the sixth straight year. They are 22-71 since being routed by Tampa Bay and former Raiders coach Jon Gruden in the Super Bowl in San Diego on Jan. 26, 2003.

"It's clear that we're not close," cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha said. "We don't play good football, we don't play sound football. We've been undisciplined. You just wonder how many people care and how many people are upset."

Tomlinson's TD midway through the first quarter was his 137th, moving him into sole possession of fifth place on the career list. He had been tied with Marshall Faulk, who was at the game working for the NFL Network.

L.T. had 91 yards on 25 carries. He has 1,906 career rushing yards and 22

total touchdowns, 19 on the ground, in 16 games against the Raiders. They are his most yards and touchdowns against any opponent.

"I think there are always certain teams that you enjoy playing and you seem to match up well against and seem to have a great game against," Tomlinson said. "I can't explain it."

Three plays into Oakland's first possession, Russell fumbled as he was being sacked by outside linebacker Shaun Phillips, and inside linebacker Jyles Tucker recovered at the 12-yard line. Tomlinson carried three straight times, scoring untouched off left tackle for a 10-0 lead.

Rivers threw an 8-yard TD pass to Sproles early in the second quarter, capping a 15-play, 96-yard drive that took 8 minutes, 29 seconds. Tomlinson and Sproles carried five times each and Rivers had three carries on the drive.

San Diego got the ball back on Cooper's first pickoff. Jackson got behind two defenders and hauled in Rivers' scoring pass down the right sideline to make it 24-0.

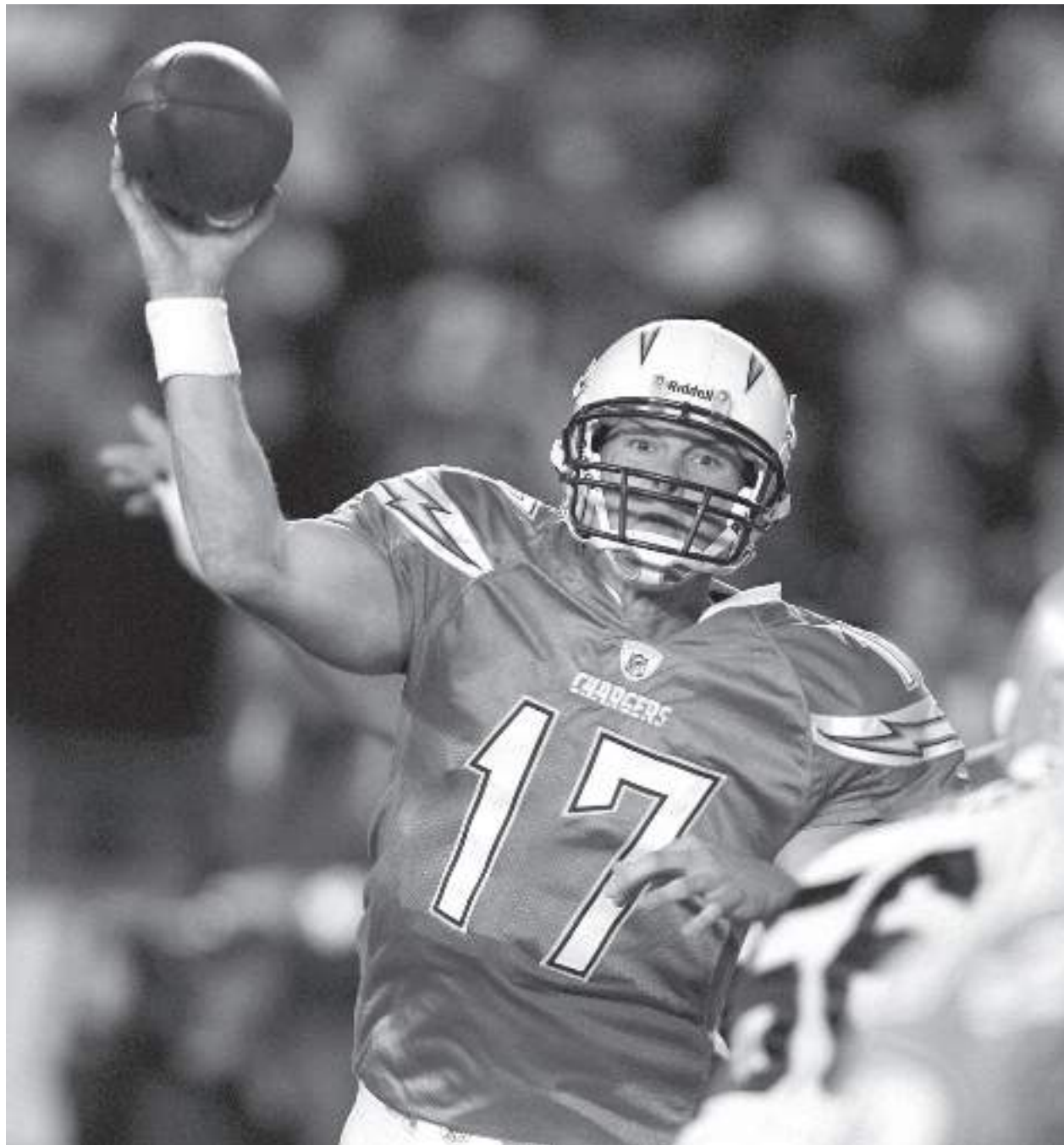
Russell was hit by Phillips while passing late in the second quarter and the ball went straight to Cooper, who lateralled to Antonio Cromartie for a 14-yard gain. Russell was hurt on that play.

San Diego's Nate Kaeding kicked field goals of 20 and 39 yards.

After Kaeding's second field goal, Oakland's Justin Miller returned the kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown.

Rivers was 10-of-22 for 214 yards. Jackson had five catches for a career-high 148 yards.

"I'm sick of losing, especially like that," Raiders tight end Zach Miller said. "We never really got going on offense and when we did, penalties and interceptions and fumbles killed us. As an offense we were inept again."



San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers releases a pass during the first quarter of the Chargers' 34-7 victory over the Oakland Raiders in an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, in San Diego. AP

## Pierce to talk to authorities Friday about Burress

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)**—Antonio Pierce and the doctor who treated his New York Giants teammate Plaxico Burress after he accidentally shot himself at a Manhattan nightclub will talk to investigators Friday.

Pierce and Dr. Josyann Abisaab will be accompanied by their lawyers when they meet with the authorities, NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Public Information Paul Browne said. It is unclear when and where the parties will meet.

The authorities are especially interested in why neither Pierce, who drove Burress to New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, nor Abisaab called police to report the shooting early Saturday. Abisaab has since been suspended for not reporting the gunshot injury, as required by law.

Police are trying to determine whether Pierce tried to cover up the shooting. They say Pierce returned to New Jersey with Burress' gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade, and investigators have impounded the SUV to search it for any blood or gun residue.

Pierce's attorney said Pierce was

caught off guard early Saturday when Burress somehow fumbled his gun—.40-caliber Glock—in the VIP section of a Manhattan nightclub and it discharged, hitting his right thigh.

"He had no idea Plaxico had a weapon," attorney Michael Bachner said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

And Bachner stressed the linebacker would cooperate with authorities and testify before a Manhattan grand jury about the incident if asked to testify, which has yet to happen.

"Antonio has always taken a position that he will be cooperative in the investigation with law enforcement," Bachner said. "Should Antonio be subpoenaed to the grand jury, and we have no idea that is going to happen, but if he is, he is going to abide by his obligations as a citizen."

Bachner did not immediately return a telephone message Thursday evening, seeking comment on Pierce's meeting with investigators.

Pierce was in no mood to discuss the shooting incident after practice at Gi-

ants Stadium.

Clad in a sweat-soaked gray pull-over, the linebacker walked up to the wooden lectern, clenched the sides with gloved hands and spoke mostly about the Giants' game on Sunday against the Philadelphia Eagles. He insisted he won't be distracted with the Giants (11-1) on the verge of clinching the NFC East title and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

"This is a big weekend for us," he said. "This a weekend that we can obviously clinch the NFC East, becoming champions of something, one of our main and most focused goals is to win our division and we have that opportunity this week."

Being under the microscope isn't a problem, either, he added.

"I am about as focused as I could be," Pierce said. "When distractions come up, you turn a negative into a positive and that is my option."

The police, too, refuse to be distracted. They're eager to learn why it took so long for them to learn of the shooting.

## NFL players union seeks to block suspensions

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—A federal judge will be asked to decide Friday whether five suspended NFL players deserve a chance to play this weekend. At issue is whether the league had a duty to notify its players and their union that a dietary supplement the five took contained a banned ingredient.

The NFL Players Association argues in a lawsuit filed Thursday that the NFL knew about the tainted supplement but failed to share that information with players whose careers were on the line.

The union filed the lawsuit to block the suspensions of five of the six players who were benched this week for violating the league's anti-doping policy. The union wants Kevin Williams and Pat Williams of the Minnesota Vikings, and Charles Grant, Deuce McAllister and Will Smith of the New Orleans Saints, to be eligible to play Sunday.

Union attorneys will go before U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson at 10:30 a.m. in St. Paul on Friday to ask for a preliminary injunction. They said in filings Thursday that the players are critical to their teams' playoff hopes.

The Williamses have been defensive stalwarts for a Vikings team in first place in the NFC North. The Saints are last in the NFC South and are a longer shot, two games out of the

wild card spot with four games to go.

"Not only these players, but their teammates and fans will suffer irreparable harm if the wrongful suspensions are not enjoined," the memo says.

The five players were suspended for four games for testing positive in training camp in July and August for the banned diuretic bumetanide, which can be used as a masking agent for steroids. The drug was in the dietary supplement StarCaps even though the label did not list the diuretic as an ingredient.

The key issue is whether the NFL had any specific obligation to notify players and the union that it had known since at least 2006 that the weight loss supplement contained the banned diuretic. The NFL says the burden is on players to know what's going into their bodies.

The union's lawsuit says the NFL-appointed doctor and the NFL lawyer who administer the league's steroids policy both knew StarCaps contained bumetanide. It alleges they breached their duty to the players and endangered their physical well-being by not notifying players.

"It's just common sense that someone shouldn't be punished in those circumstances," David Feher, a lawyer for the union, told The Associated Press.



# Nowitzki, Barea lead Mavs past Suns



**DALLAS** (AP)—Maybe it was facing buddy Steve Nash. Maybe it was having two point guards in the starting lineup. Maybe it was the way Phoenix kept switching defenders against him without ever finding a stopper.

Something put Dirk Nowitzki into quite the scoring mood.

Nowitzki scored 37 points in three quarters and wound up tying his season high of 39, and the Dallas Mavericks continued their recent surge with perhaps their best performance of the season in a 112-97 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Thursday night.

"He willed us to a higher level than we've been at," coach Rick Carlisle said. "It was clear to me he was not going to let us lose."

Nowitzki opened the game by hitting a midrange jumper and the Mavericks never trailed.

Nowitzki wouldn't let them, scoring inside or outside no matter whether he was being guarded by a big guy like Shaquille O'Neal or Amare Stoudemire, a medium-sized guy like Grant Hill or Matt Barnes, or even facing a pesky double-team from Nash.

"Since they lost Shawn Marion, they can't match up with him," teammate Jason Terry said. "He took advantage of them all night."

Nash and O'Neal returned to Phoenix's lineup after missing the two previous games, Nash because of flu-like symptoms that cost him several pounds and O'Neal because of sore knees and coach Terry Porter's plan to avoid using him in back-to-back games. Their presence wasn't enough, though, as the Suns lost their fourth straight.

"We haven't found a rhythm or a good balance yet," said Nash, who had 20 points and 10 assists without playing the fourth quarter. "We haven't shown a fighting spirit yet to get over the hump. Right now we're in a dark place but we



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41), of Germany, attempts a shot over Phoenix Suns guard Raja Bell, lower right, as forward Amare Stoudemire, upper right, defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008.

have to believe in each other."

Stoudemire led Phoenix with 28 points but got his fifth foul late in the third quarter and wasn't a factor after that.

The big problem for the Suns seems to be defense. Nowitzki's big night comes soon after Miami's Dwyane Wade scored 43 against Phoenix and New Jersey's Devin Harris had 47.

"We haven't done a good job of tak-

ing the challenge and guarding their guys," Porter said. "There's no doubt we'll get better."

Nowitzki scored 14 points in the first quarter, nine in the second and 14 in the third. He was 16-of-21 at that point and the Mavericks were comfortably ahead going into the final period.

"I felt like I hadn't been shooting the ball extremely good, only in the low 40

## 76ers F Brand out with hamstring injury

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Philadelphia forward Elton Brand will miss Friday's game at Detroit with a strained right hamstring.

Brand had an MRI on Thursday and did not travel with the Sixers. He is listed as day-to-day.

Brand didn't play the final 17

minutes of the 76ers' 114-102 loss to the Lakers on Wednesday when he first complained of the injury. He was limited to three points on 1-for-7 shooting in 25 ineffective minutes.

Brand leads the Sixers with 16.7 points and 10 rebounds a game.

percent, and that's not going to cut it," Nowitzki said. "But my shot felt good tonight and I got some good looks."

Nowitzki got one more basket before leaving with 4:04 left. Getting 40 didn't matter as much as knowing the Mavericks were headed toward their eighth win in nine games, pushing them two games over .500 for the first time this season. It also was their fourth straight home win, evening their record in Dallas at 4-4.

"We gained ground tonight—percentage-wise, we're seventh in the West now," Carlisle said. "That's huge because we're trying to climb from the abyss of the first two weeks (when they were 2-7)."

The Mavs have a good chance to keep climbing with the next five games at home. And they might've found a spark from the new wrinkle of pairing 5-foot-11 backup point guard J.J. Barea in the lineup with Jason Kidd. Sometimes they've even gone to a three-point-guard lineup with Terry joining them.

Carlisle used that in the fourth quarter when Phoenix got within 10. Barea then scored or set up every point in a 10-0 run. Soon after, he nailed a 3-pointer that pushed the lead to 23 and punctuated it with a loud scream drowned out by a roar from fans already on their feet.

"When you have confidence you can do anything and his confidence is high right now," Kidd said of Barea. "He's fearless," added Nowitzki. "He's small,

but for some reason he's a great finisher in there. He gets to the seams. I just really like that he's in attack mode."

Barea, who earned the start by hitting the winning shot in the final minute of the previous game, finished with a season-best 18 points. Terry scored 19, continuing his strong play off the bench to make up for the scoring punch lost by Josh Howard being out with an ankle injury. Dallas is 6-1 in the seven straight games he's missed.

Although these teams no longer score like they used to, the Mavericks did a good imitation of their former selves in the first half, scoring 33 points in the first quarter and a season-best 64 by halftime.

The Suns kept up with the pace the first 11 1/2 minutes, then Dallas broke the game open with a 21-4 spurt.

## Spurs 108, Nuggets 91

At Denver, Tony Parker scored 22 points, Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili each added 21 and the San Antonio Spurs took advantage of a rare poor performance by Chauncey Billups to whip the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets had won 12 of 15 since acquiring Billups from Detroit in the Allen Iverson trade.

Billups, the former University of Colorado star, had enjoyed a wonderful homecoming up to this point, helping the franchise get off to its best start since the 1976-77 team behind David Thompson won 13 of its first 19.

## Giants make Renteria their new shortstop



**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Edgar Renteria is back in the National League, where he thinks he best belongs.

Renteria became the second free agent to join the San Francisco Giants in two days, receiving an \$18.5 million, two-year contract Thursday to replace 11-time Gold Glove shortstop Omar Vizquel.

A five-time NL All-Star, Renteria has spent 11 of his 13 major league seasons in the National League. He won a World Series ring with the 1997 Florida Marlins and a pennant in 2004 with St. Louis, but struggled during a pair of one-season stints in the AL, with Boston in 2005 and Detroit this year.

"I played good in the National League. I feel real comfortable," Renteria said on a conference call. "Maybe I know more of the game in the National League. It's my type of league. I like to play the game. The American League is different—you have to go for the home run and wait for hitting. That's no excuse for what happened in the American League, but it might be why I'm so excited to get back to the National League."

Renteria receives a \$2 million signing bonus, \$7 million next year and \$9 million in 2010. The Giants have

a \$9.5 million option for 2011 with a \$500,000 buyout. If he is traded before the end of the 2010 season, Renteria can void the team option and still receive the buyout.

Giants general manager Brian Sabean has had a busy week, signing right-handed reliever Bobby Howry to a one-year contract Wednesday and following that up by securing Renteria. The sides had all but finalized a deal during a meeting Wednesday.

Renteria, a career .290 hitter, was back in Miami on Thursday after a quick visit to San Francisco.

"We really appreciate his interest and look forward to a relationship that's going to be fruitful on both sides. I don't think Edgar needs any introduction," Sabean said. "We're just thrilled to put him in our No. 2 spot in the lineup and at shortstop and move on to other business."

The Tigers declined to offer Renteria salary arbitration Monday. While he was being pursued by three or four teams, Renteria said the Giants' strong interest meant a lot to him in making the decision.

"I want to go where the people want me to go. I don't go where they don't want me," he said. "The Giants were interested in signing me. That's a great city to play baseball."

Renteria will be looking to have a better year in 2009. He batted .270 with 10 homers and 55 RBIs this season for the Tigers, who afterward declined their \$11 million option and gave him a \$3 million buyout.

Sabean isn't concerned about Renteria, especially considering he had a better second half.

"We have no reservations of him being a shortstop and what he's going to do for our offense," the GM said. "It's an upgrade."

The Giants haven't reached the playoffs since 2003 and were in a rebuilding phase last season, going 72-90 while using many young players in key roles. Having a veteran shortstop will be a big help considering Vizquel provided that kind of stability during his four years with the club.

"To get somebody with his resume is huge for our ballclub. He's a winner," manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's versatile as far as hitting in the batting order. He helps solidify our defense up the middle. This is a very great sign for us and I couldn't be more excited to have a player of his caliber."

Sabean said after the 2008 season there was "zero" chance the Giants would bring back the 41-year-old Vizquel despite his popularity and still-reliable de-

## Feds drop 4 counts against Barry Bonds

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Federal prosecutors dropped four counts of lying to a grand jury against Barry Bonds, leaving him to face trial next year on 10 counts of making false statements plus an addition obstruction of justice charge.

Bonds faces the same potential sentence range—probation to roughly two years in prison—if convicted. His trial is scheduled to begin March 2.

Thursday's indictment, the third against the home-run king, came in response to U.S. District Judge Susan Illston's decision last week ordering prosecutors to again rewrite the technically faulty indictment.

Bonds was originally charged in

November 2007 with four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice. After a motion by his lawyers to dismiss the case, Illston ordered prosecutors to rewrite the indictment because multiple alleged lies were lumped into single charges.

He was re-indicted in May and charged with 14 counts of making false declarations to a grand jury in 2003 and one count of obstruction of justice. His attorney's then asked Illston to dismiss 10 of the lying charges, claiming he was asked unclear questions in front of the grand jury in 2003, and Illston ruled Nov. 24 to dismiss three charges and asked prosecutors to consolidate or rewrite another two.

fense in the middle of the infield.

"Everybody knows Omar is one of the best shortstops in the game," said the Colombian-born Renteria. "Two Latin guys, All-Stars. To replace Omar, for me that's an honor."

San Francisco also had been interested in Rafael Furcal, but the 33-year-old Renteria certainly became less of a medical risk considering Furcal—also being courted by the Oakland Athletics—was sidelined for all but 36 games last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers because of

back problems that required surgery.

With the acquisition of Renteria, Sabean now might look to trade talented prospect Emmanuel Burriss—or give Burriss more time to develop and perhaps even use him at second base. The 23-year-old Burriss, selected by San Francisco in the first round of the 2006 draft, played 95 games last season as a rookie.

Sabean said he and his staff would discuss not only Burriss but also infielders Kevin Frandsen and Eugenio Velez during next week's winter meetings in Las Vegas.



# Ayuyus earn return trip to MISO finals

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



When Marianas High School practices for next season’s junior varsity caging, the Dolphins need to spend a lot of time at the free throw area.

The Dolphins missed 15 straight free throws in the third quarter and were 2-for-12 in the fourth allowing Kagman High School to pull away with an 80-66 win in the semifinals of the

2008-2009 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League Thursday night at the MHS Gymnasium.

Kagman earned a return trip to the finals and will be facing the winner of the Saipan Southern High School-Mt. Carmel School match in the title game on Dec. 12. The Rays and Knight were squaring off for the second finals berth last night. Southern defeated Kagman in last year’s junior varsity finals, 115-102.

The Ayuyus controlled the first half of their semis game

going into the locker room with a 47-26 lead.

The Dolphins tried to come back, but their free throw woes spelled the difference between making it to the finals and kissing their title bid goodbye.

The Dolphins went 1-for-16 from the free throw area in the extended last two minutes of the third period. MHS got several offensive rebounds in that stretch, as it missed bundles of charities, but failed to cash in points that would have brought the Dolphins back into the game.

Nino Feria was 0-for-6, Greg

Duatin went 0-for-4, and Tim Sula, Aasin Liberato, and Roe Sarmiento all hit 0-for-2, Norman Chan split his charities.

Had MHS made all 16 free throws, Kagman would have led by only one point at the end of the third period, 59-58.

The Dolphins cut the lead to 11 in the fourth quarter, 52-63, after getting three straight baskets. But back-to-back layups from Juan Maratita brought order back into the Ayuyus’ offense.

It was cruise control for the Ayuyus from thereon, as the Dolphins continued to struggle from

the stripe in the payoff period.

The Ayuyus went to the 15-foot line not as often as the Dolphins’ in the second half, but when the former did, Kagman had a better showing than MHS.

Kagman was 6-for-13 from the foul line in the second half and 9-for-17 in the first half. MHS made a decent job from the free throw area in the first half going 6-for-15, but overall the Dolphins were 12-for-47 for an awful 25.53 percent clip.

Francisco Mettao paced Kagman with 21 points, while Maratita and Dominic Reyes chipped in 14 apiece.

Ed Manalili led MHS with 17 markers.

**KHS 80** – Mettao 21, Maratita 14, Reyes 14, Kaipat 11, Ogo 8, Babauta 3, Chargualaf 2, Salas 2.

**MHS 66** – Manalili 17, Duatin 11, Chan 10, Feria 7, Sula 7, Sarmiento 6, Hidalgo 4, Liberato 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 27-9, 47-26, 59-42, 80-66.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	2	.900	—
New Jersey	9	8	.529	7 1/2
Toronto	8	9	.471	8 1/2
New York	8	10	.444	9
Philadelphia	8	11	.421	9 1/2

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	14	5	.737	—
Atlanta	11	6	.647	2
Miami	10	9	.526	4
Charlotte	7	11	.389	6 1/2
Washington	3	13	.188	9 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	15	3	.833	—
Detroit	11	6	.647	3 1/2
Chicago	8	11	.421	7 1/2
Milwaukee	8	12	.400	8
Indiana	7	11	.389	8

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	12	7	.632	—
New Orleans	10	6	.625	1/2
Dallas	10	8	.556	1 1/2
San Antonio	10	8	.556	1 1/2
Memphis	4	14	.222	7 1/2

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	14	6	.700	—
Denver	13	7	.650	1
Utah	12	8	.600	2
Minnesota	4	13	.235	8 1/2
Oklahoma City	2	17	.105	11 1/2

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	15	2	.882	—
Phoenix	11	9	.550	5 1/2
Golden State	5	13	.278	10 1/2
Sacramento	5	15	.250	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	3	15	.167	12 1/2

Yesterday's Games				
Dallas	112	Phoenix	97	
San Antonio	108	Denver	91	

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	8	4	0	.667	340	268
New England	7	5	0	.583	277	255
Miami	7	5	0	.583	253	257
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	276	259

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	11	1	0	.917	304	175
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	257	250
Houston	5	7	0	.417	282	310
Jacksonville	4	8	0	.333	241	270

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	269	170
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	292	190
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	213	247
Cincinnati	1	10	1	.125	151	310

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	7	5	0	.583	292	319
San Diego	5	8	0	.385	324	281
Oakland	3	10	0	.231	179	299
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	216	340

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	11	1	0	.917	352	206
Dallas	8	4	0	.667	299	260
Washington	7	5	0	.583	208	222
Philadelphia	6	5	1	.542	319	249

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	9	3	0	.750	280	200
Carolina	9	3	0	.750	285	231
Atlanta	8	4	0	.667	298	242
New Orleans	6	6	0	.500	337	301

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	287	260
Chicago	6	6	0	.500	281	268
Green Bay	5	7	0	.417	334	295
Detroit	0	12	0	.000	203	393

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	7	5	0	.583	338	313
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	262	313
Seattle	2	10	0	.167	216	311
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	159	360

Yesterday's Games				
San Diego	34	Oakland	7	

By The Associated Press

## DIAMOND

From Page 28

the biggest comebacks in basketball leagues here.

Diamond was down by as much as 21 points in the first half, 44-23, when it started working its way back into the game in the third period and stole the lead and the win in the closing seconds of the match.

NRG entered the final 2:30 of the game with an 83-76 lead, after James Villacrusis made an uncontested undergoal stab.

But that was NRG’s last basket, as Jericho Cruz muffed four crucial free throws in the

fourth period.

Esdrelon made two layups and Sonny Ranola drilled one in a span of less than a minute to move Diamond within one, 82-83, with 54 seconds left in the game.

Cruz was fouled in the ensuing play, but missed his two free throws, as he was obviously bothered by Diamond supporters, who were booing him.

Guiab collared the rebound after Cruz’s second miss charity and from the backcourt threw a perfect pitch to Esdrelon, who was sprinting to their frontcourt and drilled a layup giving Diamond the lead, 84-83, with 39 seconds remaining on the clock.

NRG quickly inbounded the

ball with Melvin Villarin rushing to their frontcourt. Villarin thought he had already eluded the defense of Cosino, who from the back reached in and tapped the ball. Cosino’s gamble worked, as Villarin lost the ball and Guiab picked it up.

NRG had a chance to regain the lead when Diamond made an error, as Ranola’s crosscourt pass to Brendo Tania was intercepted by Cruz. Cruz had another trip to the 15-foot line when he was bumped by Tania, as the latter attempted to steal the pass.

With Diamond supporters making noises anew while he was shooting from the stripe,

Cruz bowed to the pressure and muffed two charities, again.

Cosino controlled the rebound and was fouled by Estolas, with 11 seconds left in the game and with NRG not yet reaching the penalty mark.

NRG went over the limit when Errol Peredo fouled Ranola from the right sideline of Diamond’s frontcourt.

Ranola calmly sank the two free throws increasing Diamond’s lead to three, 86-83, with seven seconds left in the game.

NRG coach Marvin Deocares called his last timeout to set up a game-tying play. Peredo inbounded the ball from the mid-court and passed it to Villacru-

sis, who went for a long triple from the left key and missed.

Tania got the rebound, was fouled, and put the icing on the cake in the last one second of the match canning his two charities.

Diamond will be battling MIGS tonight for the championship trophy.

**Diamond 88**—Esdrelon 33, Ranola 23, Guiab 13, Tania 10, Cosino 8, Bicara 1.

**NRG 83**—Peredo 23, Villacrusis 15, Cruz 14, Estolas 12, Villarin 6, Camacho 4, Barrios 3, Capalad 3, Gamboa 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-25, 35-47, 57-66, 88-83.

## ONE

From Page 28

the kind of nonstop puncher who can make an aging fighter look bad.

And that pretty much is the selling point for a fight that seemed odd when it was first made but now looks like an increasingly intriguing matchup of two men who have been in their share of big fights.

“It’s going to be boxing history if I win this fight,” said Pacquiao. “I believe my power and my speed can beat him.”

Odds makers give Pacquiao a chance, making him an 8-5 underdog in a fight that both he and De La Hoya have relent-

lessly promoted from their first press conference a few months ago at the base of the Statue of Liberty. The promotion continued unabated at the final press conference, but there are questions over how well the fight will do with a \$55 pay-per-view price tag in the U.S. at a time people are watching their money carefully.

De La Hoya is co-promoting the fight through his own company and spent much of his time at the podium at the MGM Grand hotel-casino reminding people that they could get up to \$50 in rebates on the fight if they buy the right kind of beer, tequila and soda. Just to make sure he covered all bases, he repeated the message in Spanish.

Afterward, though, the talk returned to boxing and what could be expected from a 35-year-old fighter who may be able to score at the cash register but hasn’t won a significant fight in six years.

“This type of fight calls for a knockout,” said De La Hoya, who has fought as high as 160 pounds (72.5 kilograms). “I may box, but if Manny Pacquiao hits me with a good shot, let’s fight. Bite into my mouthpiece and let’s get down to it.”

That sounds like De La Hoya is preparing for the kind of all out brawl boxing fans will pay good money to see, but Freddie Roach doesn’t buy it. The man who was in De La Hoya’s corner in his last big

fight a year ago against Floyd Mayweather Jr. said after that fight that De La Hoya couldn’t pull the trigger on his punches anymore.

Roach is Pacquiao’s trainer and he pushed for this fight, certain that even an undersized Pacquiao has plenty to handle De La Hoya.

“He’s so tight,” Roach said. “I’ve never seen a fighter who is so experienced so tight before a fight.”

While De La Hoya says he has nothing to gain by beating Pacquiao because of the size difference, a win would help turn around a career that has been stuck in mediocrity since he stopped Fernando Vargas at 154 pounds (70 kilograms) in

2002. De La Hoya is as popular as ever, but he admits that he needs to win some of the big fights he promotes if he is to continue to get people to pay to watch him fight.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, is already a national hero in the Philippines, where the entire nation pauses to watch his fights, and widely considered one of the best active fighters around. But this would be a breakthrough win in his first megafight, and he has the added bonus of perhaps being the fighter who finally sent De La Hoya into retirement.

“If you sacrifice and dream about a fight, you can win,” Pacquiao said. “It’s hard to explain how happy I am right now.”

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and 185.44 average. He rolled 1,080 in the singles, 1,126 in the doubles, and 1,132 in the team.

Jorge Soledad came in at No. 68 with his 3,241 pinfalls and 180.6 average built around 1,039 in the singles, 1,036 in the doubles, and 1,166 in the team.

Ross Zapanta saw action in

only two of the three categories because he had to fly back to Saipan. He led the team in the singles with 1,174 and had 1,095 in the doubles for a 189.08 average—also tops in the team.

The qualifiers for the Masters competition are Kim Young Pyo of Daegu (3975), Brian Manibusan of Tamuning (3,964), Kong Byoung Hee of Uiwang (3,852), Kim Jong Hyun of Daegu (3,812), Lee Tae Ju of Daegu

(3,809), Michael Tsang of Hong Kong (3,804), Won Joong Moon of Uiwang (3,804), F.J. Lim of Sham Alam (3,794), Perry Ko of Kowloon (3,776), Henry Hui of Kowloon (3,767), Daniel Choi (3,757), Lee Dong Hee of Pohang City (3,728), Jonathan Duenas of Tamuning (3,726), Choi Moun Gu of Pohang City (3,725), J.D. Castro of Tamuning (3,724), and Eddie Lui of Kowloon (3,717).

The women’s division also

had its own masters competition with Cecilia Yap of Paranaque, New Hui Fen of Singapore and Yap’s teammate Liza Clutario leading the way after finishing in the Top 3 of the All Events.

A record number of participants from 22 cities are taking part in the 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championship which kicked off last Monday at the 24-lane Macau Bowling Center in Taipa-Coloane.

Participating cities are Taipei City from Chinese Taipei, Tamuning from Guam, Hong Kong, Happy Valley, Kowloon, Victoria from Hong Kong, Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi from India, Daegu, Pohang and Uiwang from Korea, Kuantan and Shah Alam from Malaysia, Macau, Macau Coloane, Macau Taipa, Saipan, Paranaque City and Pasay City from the Philippines and Singapore.

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The rest of the fight card for Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation is as follows:

- Team Pwang’s Eddie Paulis vs. Trench Tech’s Shane “Pika-boo” Alvarez (4-0) in the 130-lb. division;
- Team Pwang’s J.J. “The Mauler” Mality (1-3) vs.

Trench Tech’s Alverick “Pretty Boy” Alvarez (2-0) in the 140-lb. division;

- Marianas Elite’s Derick “Pinchi” Rangamar (3-3) vs. Trench Tech’s “Badd” Brad Palacios (5-2) in the 140-lb. division;
- Predator Combat’s Nate “The Terrible” Guam United Fight Team’s Leo “The Assassin” Cing (5-4) in the 150-lb. division;

- D.A.T. Gym’s Joe Cabrera (0-1) vs. Trench Tech’s Fasi “Quikdraw” Jesse (2-0) in the 155-lb. division;
- Malesso Home Grown Fighters’ Brian “The Shotgun” Howard (6-5) vs. Trench Tech’s Giovanni “Palaxi” Sablan (12-4) in the 150-lb. division;
- Predator Combat’s John “The Jackhammer” Borja (2-3) vs. Marianas Elite’s Syl “The Deal” Teregeyo (3-2-1)

in the 185-lb. division;

- Team SSS Robert “Pitbull” Palacios (0-5) vs. Trench Tech’s Jason “Rush” Tarkong (8-2) in the 175-lb. division; and
- Team Zalaka’s Ton “Xcalibur” Nekaifes (0-1) vs. Team X-Treme’s “Kill” Bill Saures (6-4) in the Big Brawl super heavyweight division.

Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation will also make history with the first ever female





**LT, Rivers lead Chargers to win over Raiders**  
LaDainian Tomlinson can still run the ball and his San Diego Chargers finally looked like world-beaters.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Ayuyus earn return trip to MISO finals**  
When Marianas High School practices for next season's junior varsity caging, the Dolphins need to spend a lot of time at the free throw area.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## One goes up, the other down, as Oscar, Manny prepare to fight



**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Oscar De La Hoya says he's been down to 147 pounds (67 kilograms) for weeks, and one look at him in a track suit seemed to back that up on Wednesday.

The same can't be said about Manny Pacquiao, but his job in the weeks preparing for his fight with De La Hoya wasn't to diet but to eat as much as he possibly could.

One fighter has been

starving himself, while the other has been gorging. It's the only way the two could get close enough in weight to allow them to meet on Saturday at 147 pounds (67 kilograms) in a bout that will bring them millions even with a souring economy.

Both are claiming victory over the scales, though De La Hoya still towered over Pacquiao when the two met in the final pre-fight press conference. The weigh-in isn't until a day before the fight, but all

the hard work has been done for a bout that could finally hasten De La Hoya's exit from the ring if he has misjudged this opponent.

De La Hoya insists he hasn't.

"I trained for King Kong," he said.

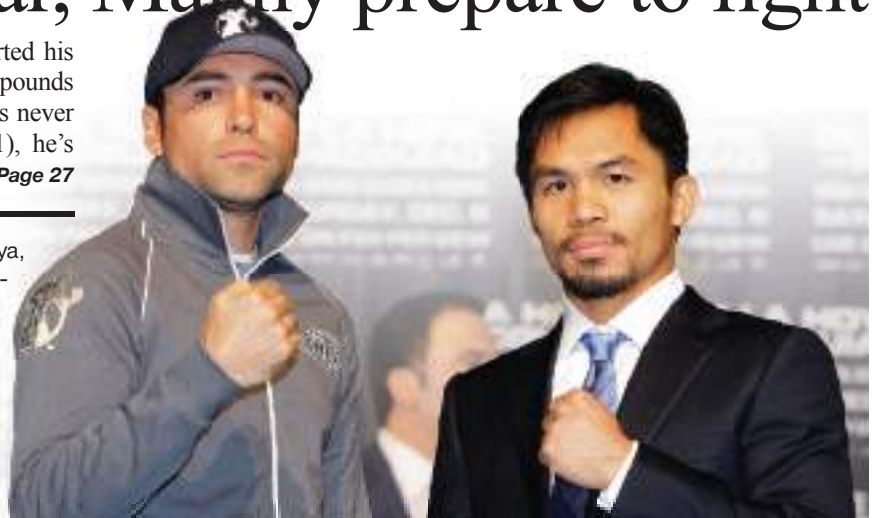
Pacquiao is hardly King Kong, though De La Hoya would be wise to beware of a fighter who has won titles in five weight divisions and is heralded by many as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the

world. Though he started his boxing career at 106 pounds (48 kilograms) and has never fought above 135 (61), he's

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Boxers Oscar De La Hoya, left, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos during a news conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008.

AP



## Diamond sets title tiff vs MIGS

Rallies from 21 points down to beat NRG

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

If the Diamond Auto Care-C&R Distributor/NRG playoff pairing was a two-part movie series, the two episodes had different plots, but the same ending.

After its depleted crew stunned NRG Wednesday night, 106-98, to force a do-or-die game for the second finals ticket in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball

League, Diamond shone anew, slipping past NRG in the rubbermatch, 88-83, Thursday night at CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

In Diamond's win on Wednesday, spectators watched Boy Garcia's wards controlled the game from start to finish en route to an eight-

point win. In Thursday's game, the audience witnessed how NRG fell apart in the fourth quarter and a tale of one of

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## No Masters stint for CNMI keglers

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Team Saipan players failed to reach the Masters competition of the 22nd Asian

Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships at the Macau Bowling Center after none of them cracked the Top 16 in the All Events.

At the end of three days of competition, Percy Omechalang wound up in 51<sup>st</sup> place with 3,395 pinfalls in the All Events following rolls of 1,087 in the singles, 1,194 in the doubles, and 1,114 in the team, good for a 188.61 average.

Ador Dimaano was the second best Saipan bowler of the tournament finishing in the 58<sup>th</sup> spot with 3,338 pinfalls

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The Saipan team to the 22nd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships in Macau. From left, Ross Zapanta, Jorge Soledad, Percy Omechalang, and Ador Dimaano.

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Diamond Auto Care's Elmer Esdreton, right, goes up for a layup against NRG's Errol Peredo during their semifinals game in the 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Thursday night at CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Six days to go for 'The Annihilation'

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR



The countdown for Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation is in its final six days and promoter Cuki Alvarez is emphasizing that the final mixed martial arts event of the year is set for Friday, Dec. 12, and not Saturday, Dec. 13.

"I still get a lot of calls from all our fateful MMA fight fans asking whether the fight is on Saturday. I guess they are so used to Trench Warz taking place on Saturdays. Anyways, Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation is definitely on Friday, Dec. 12," he said in an email to the Saipan Tribune.

Twelve action-packed MMA fights are scheduled for the Friday Night Fights banner by the Saipan-Guam main event between heavyweights Kelvin Fital of Marianas Elite and Rueben "The Booben" Quinata of Spike 22 Fight Academy.

The 230-lb. Fital comes into the fight with a 12-5-2 win-loss-draw record, while the 225-lb. Quinata brings his immaculate 3-0 win-loss slate to Saipan.

Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation will also have Marianas Elite's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas going up against Team Predators' "Brutal" Bryson Sablan in the semi main event.

The 215-lb. San Nicolas and his 6-1 win-loss record is the slight favorite against the 205-lb. Sablan, which is 3-1 in four fights.

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